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At Auschwitz Ceremony, The Agonies of the Past Still Torment the Living

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

OSWIECIM, Poland — The children of Auschwitz marched back into the kingdom of death again Thursday, shuffling through the iron gates and down the muddy track that led to the gas chambers and the ovens.

This time, however, they came not as victims but as survivors and as mourners, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the liberation by Soviet soldiers of the most notorious Nazi extermination camp.

"God of forgiveness, do not forgive those murderers of Jewish children here," said Elie Wiesel, a Nobel prize winner and an Auschwitz survivor, as he prayed next to the rubble of Crematoria II. "Remember the nocturnal processions of children and more children and more children, frightened, quiet, so quiet and so beautiful. If we could simply look at one, our hearts would break."

Heartbreaking it was, as more than 1,500 people — including several survivors, like Mr. Wiesel — followed the now-rusty rail spur that brought more than 1.1 million people to their deaths.

"Auschwitz is the largest cemetery in the world, one without gravestones," said Maurice Goldstein, a Belgian surgeon and camp survivor who heads the International Auschwitz Association. "Only the ashes of countless souls were strewn here."

But the ceremony on Thursday was nearly overshadowed by an ugly dispute between Jewish groups and Polish officials over how to properly honor the dead. The World Jewish Congress, among others, has accused the Polish government of insensitivity and bungling.

in planning the two-day commemoration.

Jewish leaders, noting that 90 percent of the victims at Auschwitz were Jews, felt particularly aggrieved that the ceremonies scheduled for Friday had excluded Kaddish, Judaism's traditional prayer for the dead.

Consequently, Thursday's procession was planned as a defiant rebuke of Poland's president, Lech Wałęsa; the memorial service ended with Kaddish and the haunting wail of a cantor crying out the names of the Nazi death camps.

Andrzej Zekrzewski, a top Wałęsa aide, called the separate ceremony on Thursday "astonishing" and suggested, without elaborating, that "personal ambition may be playing a part here." Other Polish officials acknowledge that, during the decades of Communist rule, Jewish suffering at Auschwitz was given short shrift in an attempt to emphasize that 75,000 Poles died here. But they say that historical skew is being redressed by new, honest scholarship.

The dispute illustrates how half a century has failed to assuage the anguish of Auschwitz or to resolve the stewardship of its legacy. And the centuries-old friction between Jews and Poles was on view Thursday afternoon as a scuffle broke out within a stone's throw of an Auschwitz watchtower once manned by SS troops.

A group led by Avi Weiss, a militant rabbi from New York, traded insults and shoves with several Poles outside a Carmelite nunnery, which many Jews feel is an offensive effort to impose a Christian gloss on what is fundamentally a Jewish shrine. Weiss threw a huge wooden cross

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REUTERS/INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

Voters Like Clinton Talk, but They Doubt It Will Wash

By Isabel Wilkerson
New York Times Service

RIVER GROVE, Illinois — Frank Faruggia's family and half-dozen friends, frequent guests in a household that always seems to be bustling with them, sat watching the State of the Union message on a television set in the Faruggias' kitchen on Tuesday night.

As President Bill Clinton spoke of coming "to this hallowed chamber two years ago on a mission," admitted that he had made some mistakes since then but told, too, of the lower unemployment and inflation the country had experienced since he took office, Mr. Faruggia just stroked his beard.

As the president declared that he was "proud to say tonight that our country is stronger than it was two years ago," Mr. Faruggia's friend John Viscatino, a plant engineer, lit another Marlboro.

As the president resurrected his "new covenant" and spoke of plans to ease the financial burdens of the middle class, Mr. Faruggia looked over at Mr. Valentino and the two of them laughed.

"New Deal, New Society, New Contract, New Covenant," Mr. Faruggia said. "Same dragon, different head."

It was as if they had heard all this before, they said. And although they could not find much to disagree with in the president's speech — who is against welfare

reform or less bureaucracy? they asked — they doubted that Mr. Clinton or even the new Congress would do much of anything.

Mr. Faruggia, 40, a part-time police officer who owns a hot-dog stand and repairs cars on the side, said the speech was "like a cheap live vest."

"It'll float two or three weeks, and then it'll go down the tubes," he said.

Skepticism runs deep in this working-class Chicago suburb of 10,000 people, where a few elections ago most people would tell you they were Democrats, but where last November most people went Republican.

This used to be Dan Rostenkowski territory. But in November, the former chair-

man of the House Ways and Means Committee lost by 66 percent to 34 percent here to Michael Flanagan, an unemployed lawyer who had never held elective office but who was Republican in a Republican year.

This used to be Clinton country as well. But since the president's election, Loretta Page, Democratic precinct captain, has become Loretta Page, Republican precinct captain.

"I was a Bill Clinton fan," said Mrs. Page, who watched the address in her home, not far from the Faruggias'.

"I voted for him because he made you feel good, and it helps his good-looking."

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Kiosk

Algerian Says Vote Could Be Held in July

Reuters

ROME — The Algerian foreign minister, Salah Dembri, said Thursday that presidential elections promised by the military-backed government before the end of this year could be held as early as July.

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Rocket Explosion Grounds TV Networks' Asia Dreams

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — A Chinese rocket carrying a telecommunications satellite exploded shortly after takeoff Thursday, thwarting plans by many of the biggest names in cable television to compete head-to-head across Asia with Rupert Murdoch's STAR TV network.

The launch failure sparked a hectic search by rival international broadcasting groups for backup ways to penetrate the vast market where two-thirds of the world's potential television viewers live.

At the same time, analysts said the loss of the Long March 2E rocket and its Apstar-2 satellite payload in Sichuan Province considerably raised stakes in the global commercial space race, reopening opportunities for rival launch programs in Russia, Europe and the United States and

inflating insurance premiums for all. The crash was China's third recent launch failure.

Among the networks that must now rethink their pan-Asian strategies are NBC, Turner Broadcasting System, the sports channel ESPN, the Disney Channel and Reuters Television.

Among the dozens of broadcast groups now in the Asian market, only STAR TV operates from a single satellite that can beam right across Asia. It broadcasts a full range of programming into 53 countries.

"This underscores what a risky business we're all in," a spokeswoman for the broadcaster said. "It could have happened to us; we're not gloating."

But analysts reckoned STAR TV had good reason to do so, given the blow a

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REUTERS/INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

Murder Trial of Fallen President Heralds 'Rule of Law' in Malawi

By Bill Keller
New York Times Service

BLANTYRE, Malawi — During three decades of eccentric, regal despotism, President Hastings Kamuzu Banda usually had a red carpet unfurled before him when he ventured out into his realm.

So there was a ghoulish curiosity in the crowd that gathered outside the High Court of Malawi the other day, hoping to see the fallen ruler and his confederates endure that humiliating ritual of accused celebrities, the perp walk.

"Kamuzu, you have killed our sons!" some chanted, and a few yelled for blood.

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Newsstand Prices

	Dow Jones	Trib Index
Down	1.01	Up 0.30%
	3870.44	108.32
The Dollar	Thurs. close	previous close
DM	1.5178	1.5177
Pound	1.5905	1.5915
Yen	99.445	99.525
FF	5.255	5.2485

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The future of soccer's most passionate and distressing star is in doubt after the English Football Association charged Eric Cantona, the Frenchman forward who plays for Manchester United, with "misconduct bringing the game into disrepute" for attacking a spectator during a Premier League match.

Cantona was given 14 days to explain his flying two-footed kick, which set off a fistfight with the spectator Wednesday night at Selhurst Park during United's 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace. It was thought to be the first time that a player in English professional soccer had attacked a spectator.

He also may face criminal assault charges. Scotland Yard, which polices the London area, said it was continuing its investigation and would interview a large number of spectators about Cantona and his teammate, Paul Ince, who allegedly also threw a punch after being doused with tea and racial abuse as officials and team-mates were pulling Cantona away.

on our game," the FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, said at a packed news conference Thursday. "If any offense is proved, the player concerned is bound to face a severe punishment."

English newspapers were speculating that Cantona faces anything from suspension for the rest of this season to a lifetime ban from English soccer.

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The French Football Federation's president, Claude Simonet, who has feuded with the rebellious Cantona, said the 28-year-old forward probably would be stripped of his captaincy of the French national team at the very least. As host of the 1998 World Cup, France had been trying to build a contender around Cantona, who has scored 20 goals in 45 games for his country.

He has led his club teams, Leeds United in 1992 and then Manchester United, to the last three English championships.

"Unfortunately, I think Eric Cantona will have to be taken off the French team," Simonet told Reuters Television. "I'm saying what happened last night was a stain

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EU's Leader Argues for Innovation, Not Quotas

Santer Rejects Policy Of Protectionism as 'Something Artificial'

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Jacques Santer promised Thursday that as president of the European Union's executive commission he would push for a Europe that is open economically and culturally, saying in an interview that innovation rather than protectionism held the key to Europe's future.

"You don't help your enterprise with a policy of protection," Mr. Santer said. "A quota is always something artificial that can only last for a certain period of time."

In a 90-minute interview, his first since replacing Jacques Delors on Monday as president of the European Commission, Mr. Santer also sketched out a pragmatic, consensual approach toward bridging the gap between German backers of deeper EU integration and skeptics in Britain and France, as well as the gap between EU leaders and their citizens.

A governmental conference next year on reforming EU institutions should seek evolutionary improvements in cooperation on foreign policy, immigration and judicial affairs, he said, building on the 1992 Maastricht Treaty on European Union rather than dramatically overhauling it.

"I don't attach importance to great speeches or philosophy," he said. "If we want to bring Europe closer to the citizens, we must give an answer to the problems of unemployment, instability on Europe's doorstep, and increasing crime and illegal immigration at home."

The Union also should work to end Britain's exemption from EU social legislation, Mr. Santer said, but he did not envisage any sanctions against London as one European think tank suggested this week.

"In a Union of 15 now, you must take into account the sensibilities of everyone," he said. "You can't build Europe against anyone."

Mr. Santer also made these points:

• He called Prime Minister Edouard Balladur of France "a man of good sense" who would not weaken France's allegiance to the Union if he wins the presidency this spring. Mr. Balladur created a stir in November by calling for cooperation among different circles of EU states on areas like defense and Mediterranean security, but his declared support this week for a single EU currency at the early target date of 1997 showed he was "very committed to European policy," Mr. Santer said.

• He argued against any relaxation of the Maastricht Treaty's tough inflation and deficit criteria in order to achieve monetary union in 1997, saying they were essential to winning the German public over to a single currency. "The single currency must be as strong as the Deutsche mark," he said.

• Although acknowledging that Europe is most likely to maintain television quotas for some time, he indicated a strong preference for incentives over import restrictions.

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Bonn Launches Work Plan for Chronic Jobless

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — In a sign that fighting unemployment will be one of its economic priorities this year, the German government announced on Thursday a four-year program to help long-term jobless find new work.

The move was seen as a first step toward rebuilding the famed German social consensus that has been stretched thin by several years of increasingly bitter disputes between labor and management over wages, benefits and working hours. It followed the first of several meetings bringing together leaders from German government, labor and industry to discuss employment.

The talks are being watched closely throughout Europe, where workers, employers and governments are searching desperately for new ways to fight unemployment. Some outside Germany think the labor talks could generate ideas suitable for use in other European countries, where, like Germany, even the economic recovery is not likely to greatly reduce unemployment.

For example, German union leaders last week agreed to accept a cut in wages corresponding with a reduction in the number of hours worked if companies would hire more workers. Previously, union leaders had argued that letting employees work fewer hours would create new jobs, but they were generally unwilling to take a pay cut.

"The reduction in the number of working hours is the only reasonable answer to unemployment in the next few years," Sergio Cofferati, the Italian union leader, was quoted as saying in the daily *La Repubblica*.

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Yeltsin Says Rocket Prompted Hot-Line Alert

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin said Thursday that he had used his hot-line link to his generals when Norway fired a scientific missile that set off a major security alert in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin also praised the army and the Interfax news agency for their handling of the incident, which caused widespread alarm Wednesday.

His comments revived speculation about the incident, which was rapidly being dismissed as a misunderstanding between a journalist for Interfax and his source in the Russian military.

In comments Thursday to Interfax, Mr. Yeltsin also suggested that Norway and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners might have been trying to test Russia's military readiness.

"I indeed yesterday used for the first time my black suitcase with the button, which is always carried with me," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"I linked up instantly with the minister of defense, with all those military leader-generals whom I need, and we tracked the path of this rocket from beginning to end," he added.

Mr. Yeltsin did not challenge Norway's explanation that the missile, which came down near a group of islands in the Arctic Ocean that belong to Nor-

way, was a research rocket financed by the U.S. space agency.

But his claim that the incident touched off a major defense alert in Moscow was certain to provoke questions in the West about the Russian military's crisis procedures and the level of advice being offered to Mr. Yeltsin.

Interfax initially reported that Russian Air Defense troops had shot down a missile launched from northern Europe, causing consternation among governments and the military around the world.

Interfax later acknowledged that its report was wrong, blaming the mistake on false information from a high-ranking military source.

The "missile" turned out to be a rocket launched to study the Northern Lights. The Norwegians launched it within their own territory, after informing the Russian government.

Norway said Thursday that it had asked its embassy in Moscow to find out why Russia apparently did not know the rocket was going to be launched. A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ingvar Havnen, said Oslo followed normal procedure in informing foreign embassies, including Russia's, about the launching of a rocket.

It was not clear whether Mr. Yeltsin's communica-

cations suitcase was also the portable nuclear command system that can unleash Russia's atomic forces. The U.S. president has a similar portable system.

Mr. Yeltsin made his comments at the start of a one-day trip to Lipetsk, south of Moscow, to a senior journalist from Interfax.

Apparently referring to Norway, Mr. Yeltsin said: "They, of course, did not expect us to spot it because the rocket was not so big, but we spotted it straight away and determined the place where it came down — a good enough distance from our shores."

Asked what the aim of the launching might have been, he said, "Somebody perhaps decided to test us because the media is saying all the time that our army is weak."

"We knew in a minute where the rocket flew from, where and at what speed it headed and where it would land or splash down," Mr. Yeltsin said, adding that the armed forces had to be thanked for their efficiency.

Diplomats said the president's comments were all the more puzzling because they ran counter to remarks on Wednesday by Russia's new ambassador to Oslo, Yuri Fokin, who said the incident "was nothing but a misunderstanding." (Reuters, AP)

Grachev Assailed by General for Invasion

By Fred Hiatt
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — A three-star Russian Army general who quit rather than lead troops into Chechnya said Thursday that Defense Minister Pavel S. Grachev had lacked the courage to tell President Boris N. Yeltsin that his troops were woefully unprepared for the invasion.

The officer, Colonel General Eduard Vorobyov, who declined to command the operation in the southern breakaway region unless given more time, said troops were rushed into combat in bad weather and insufficient numbers, with poor intelligence and little training or preparation.

The military has decided not to prosecute General Vorobyov, 56, for mutiny, but he said at a news conference and in a television interview that he was being transferred to the reserves.

General Vorobyov said General Grachev "should have had the courage to tell the president he needed a certain time to prepare the operation to minimize casualties."

In Chechnya on Thursday, Chechen and Russian forces accomplished their first large-scale prisoner exchange, releasing about 40 fighters from each side. The International Red Cross has complained that Russia has not allowed access to any prisoners or reported how many it holds.

Despite Mr. Yeltsin's repeated claims that the military stage of the operation is complete, Russian artillery again subjected the Chechen capital of Grozny to intense shelling.

Shells landed in the southern residential outskirts of the city every three to four seconds on Thursday morning. Among the structures hit was an apartment building where 37 mothers of captured Russian soldiers had been living.

Russian pilots, despite bad weather in Moscow of moving from fighting to economic reconstruction, continued to target railroad and highway bridges in Chechnya. Refugees streamed out of Grozny.

The official Russian press service reported continued fighting not only in Grozny but also in four other Chechen communities. It also said Chechens "took hold of strategic points controlling approaches to tunnels, bridges and other communications in the mountainous part of Chechnya."

General Vorobyov is one of "six or seven" generals who refused to take part or follow orders during the Chechen campaign, General Grachev said.

On Thursday, the newspaper *Izvestiya* identified two others, who allegedly held their troops back while others were pushing into Grozny during the disastrous New Year's Eve assault.

Rebels May Hit Moscow

A senior Chechen official on Thursday ruled out strikes by rebels against oil pipelines but said they might bring their struggle to Moscow, Reuters reported from Washington.

Shamsutdin Yusuf, foreign minister in the government of the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, said of the next phase of the war: "I think we burn Moscow. We have people who can do that." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Yusuf was in Washington to try to build political support for the Chechen struggle.



Lieutenant General Rupert Smith, second from right, arriving at the Sarajevo airport on Thursday. He was welcomed by General Hervé Gobilliard, right, and Viktor Andreev, second from left, a UN civil affairs official in the Bosnian capital.

New UN Commander Takes Over in Bosnia

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina —

The new British commander of United Nations' peacekeeping forces in Bosnia arrived in the capital on Thursday with cool words for his predecessor and no peace for his 24,000 troops to keep.

Visibly nervous, the commander, Lieutenant General Rupert Smith, strode from a United Nations' Ilyushin aircraft.

Before him stood the ruins of the Dobrinja district of Sarajevo, testimony to the devastation of Bosnia's long war.

Behind him stood Mount Igman, long cooteted because the small track that snakes up along it is the one road out of the city controlled by the Muslim-led government.

Asked about his predecessor, Lieutenant General Michael Rose, whose one-year assignment was marked by tensions with

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Bosnian government, General Smith said: "Good luck" were his parting words. He told me what he'd done and why he'd been doing it, and that is where we left it."

A change in style seems inevitable under General Smith, a 51-year-old officer who established close links with American forces during the Gulf War, where he commanded the British Army's First Armored Division.

Quiet-spoken, General Smith is expected to keep a lower profile than the mercurial General Rose. General Smith is known as a soldier's soldier, and it appears telling that he flew to Sarajevo in the discomfort of a Russian-made Ilyushin transport.

On Thursday, Sarajevo was in turn quiet, as it has been since a four-month ceasefire agreement was signed at the beginning of the year.

General Smith said his main aim was to build on that accord to "arrive at a settlement and peace in this country."

But the possibility that the four-month truce might turn into something more lasting appears remote. As General Smith arrived, American, British and French officials were pursuing what have so far been fruitless talks whose modest aim is to get the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government to the negotiating table.

The officials, members of the "contact group," which also includes Germany and Russia, want the Serbs to accept a map obliging them to give up a third of the land they hold as a prelude to entering talks in which that map could be changed.

The map, presented last July and rejected by the Serbs, offers 51 percent of Bosnia to a Muslim-Croat federation and 49 percent to the Serbs, who now hold 70 percent.

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Nurse Is Given Warning Over Appendectomy

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

London — A hospital nurse threatened with dismissal for having performed surgery on a patient was instead given a written warning after a disciplinary hearing, it was announced Thursday.

The Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust said it found that Valerie Tomlinson, 53, had carried out three elements of the Dec. 19 appendectomy for which she had no formal training.

The patient was said to be satisfied with the results of the surgery and does not intend to file a complaint.

Outrage Over a Murder in Spain

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

The murder of a popular opposition politician by the Basque separatist organization ETA has touched off a wave of revulsion in Spain and even drawn a rare disclaimer of violence by a spokeswoman for the extremist Basque nationalist party, *Herri Batasuna*.

Thousands of citizens marched in silence through the streets of San Sebastian for the funeral Tuesday night of Gregorio Ordóñez, a rising member of the Popular Party, which recently nominated him as its candidate for mayor of the resort city. He was a deputy in the regional Basque assembly and his party's spokesman for the region.

Mr. Ordóñez was shot at

point-blank range on Monday in a bar in the city center. It was the third such killing in two years under virtually identical circumstances in a three-block area of the old town, which is the only part of the city controlled by the nationalist party.

In all the shootings, the killer or killers escaped on foot through the narrow streets.

According to Interior Ministry sources, ETA has come under the control of a group of young radical terrorists determined to step up a campaign of violence. In a joint operation in November, Spanish and French police captured documents that indicated ETA was planning to target military and Civil Guard officers, Basque police and industrialists in the region.

Mr. Ordóñez did not have a

bodyguard despite his outspoken criticism of ETA violence.

Herri Batasuna, which may see as a political cloak for the terrorists, did not comment officially on the killing and its representatives were not among the city councilors who led a procession of citizens along the two-kilometer route from the town hall to the church where the funeral was held. But its spokeswoman in San Sebastian, Begona Gardeñán, said she deeply regretted the killing "in my personal capacity and as a militant in HB."

She said Mr. Ordóñez was probably the most determined opponent of "anything nationalist or progressive" in the city government. "As a political foe," she said, "he should have been combated with political means."

The German jobs program announced Thursday replaced a similar subsidy program that expired last year. Under the previous program, the government paid up to 80 percent of the wages when a company hired someone who had been unemployed for more than three years. Benefits started at 60 percent after one year of unemployment.

Friedrich Böhl, chief of staff, said the jobs program would help put 180,000 to 200,000 people back to work with subsidies of 3 billion Deutsche marks (\$1.9 billion) over the next four years.

"Everyone agreed that economic recovery must include the unemployed," said Dieter Schulte, head of the Federation of German Unions. "We must do everything to reduce unemployment and ensure that people who have been pushed to the fringe of the labor market are given the prospect of a job."

Mr. Schulte said his European convictions were identical to those of Mr. Dehaene and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, but that they did not represent a threat to British foreign policy.

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THE AMERICAS / GUNS AND VOTE

Prosecutors Seek to Bar Simpson's Witnesses

By David Margolick
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors in the O.J. Simpson case asked Judge Lance A. Ito on Thursday to delay the trial and to reopen their opening statement because, they said, lawyers for Mr. Simpson had improperly withheld evidence until the defense gave its own opening statement.

Because of such "egregious issues of misconduct," prosecutors said, some proposed defense evidence should either be limited or barred from the trial.

The defense's opening, delivered by Mr. Simpson's chief trial counsel, Johnnie L. Cochran, remained incomplete Thursday both because of the prosecution's request and because one of the prosecutors, William W. Hodgman, was hospitalized Wednesday night for chest pains. Mr. Hodgman was stricken shortly after court adjourned and after heatedly assailing the defense's conduct.

The prosecution has accused the defense of omitting the names of several people that Mr. Cochran alluded to from lists of prospective witnesses, as they are required to do by law. In other instances, they say, Mr. Simpson's counsel did not hand over statements taken from others on that list.

Had they divulged the names, a deputy prosecutor in the case, Christopher A. Darden, told Judge Ito in Superior Court, the witnesses could have been discredited in advance.

"We could have informed counsel that some of these people are heroin addicts, thieves, felons, and one of these so-called material witnesses is the only person I have ever known to be a court-certified pathological liar," Mr. Darden said in a testy court hearing Thursday.

Mr. Cochran expressed sympathy for Mr. Hodgman, whose condition is stable and who is said to be resting comfortably, but quickly moved on to attack him and his colleagues. He charged that prosecutors, reeling from disclosures in his opening, and chagrined that someone was finally standing up for Mr. Simpson, were "whimpering" because "they can't stand the truth" and needed time to regroup.

"They went on this public relations media blitz to tar this man, and, finally, after seven months, yesterday somebody spoke up for O.J. Simpson," he said. "All across the country, in the bways and highways, they heard what this is going to be. They can't take it. They have the temerity, the unmitigated gall to come in there and complain that they have somehow been sabotaged."

Later Wednesday afternoon, after Mr. Cochran's opening had been suspended, Mr. Hodgman exploded, calling the defense's behavior "outrageous and unbelievable."

Mr. Cochran's remarks made clear, Mr. Hodgman charged, that the defense had withheld statements taken from a variety of people, including a woman who said she saw four suspicious-looking men near Nicole Brown Simpson's condominium in Brentwood around the time that Mrs. Simpson and a friend, Ronald L. Goldman, were stabbed to death. Mr. Simpson is charged with the murders of his former wife and her friend.

Mr. Hodgman also charged defense lawyers with failing to turn over statements which, they surmised from Mr. Cochran's statement, they had taken from a variety of witnesses. They related to Mr. Simpson's afflictions — rheumatoid arthritis, dyslexia — as well as evidence of shoe prints, tire tracks and the cut on Mr. Simpson's finger.

"A Pandora's box of discovery issues has just been cracked open this afternoon," Mr. Hodgman complained.



O.J. Simpson lifting a trouser leg to show the jury surgery scars on his left knee.

Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — It was a moment television viewers had hoped to see — O.J. Simpson on display as a living exhibit during opening statements.

But no one outside Judge Lance A. Ito's courtroom witnessed Mr. Simpson on Wednesday as he bared a knee to jurors. It was part of a defense presentation intended to show that the former football star's physical limitations would have made it impossible for him to have committed the murders of his former wife and her friend.

On orders from Judge Ito, the courtroom camera was trained on a wall as the demonstration got under way. Mr. Simpson sighted, rose from the defense table and crossed the courtroom. Standing just inches away from the jury box, he

bent down and lifted his left pant leg. Some jurors in the back row stood and craned for a look at his knee, which his lawyers say has been scarred by repeated surgeries for chronic rheumatoid arthritis.

Reporters nearest to the jury box said Mr. Simpson looked uncomfortable as his defense lawyer, Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., described the misshapen knee.

Mr. Cochran then asked Mr. Simpson to show the jurors a scar on his finger, which prosecutors contend he received in a struggle with victim Ronald Lyle Goldman, but which the defense maintains he suffered when he broke a glass in a Chicago hotel room. Mr. Simpson looked at the wall behind the jurors, seemingly embarrassed, as he stood with outstretched hand for the jurors to see the scar.

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton 'Cheap Shot' Draws Barbs

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's legal defense fund has announced it will no longer accept contributions from registered lobbyists, a step that administration and fund officials have long resisted.

The decision came after Republicans accused Mr. Clinton of being hypocritical when he called on members of Congress in his State of the Union speech Tuesday night to stop taking gifts from lobbyists.

In broadcast interviews Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican, called Mr. Clinton's challenge a "cheap shot," saying, "When we have lobbyists contributing to the president's legal defense fund, I think he'd be a little careful about bringing that up."

A few hours later, Vice President Al Gore announced that, in fact, Mr. Clinton planned to change his own policy. He said Mr. Clinton was acting "in compliance with the principle that gifts from lobbyists should not be accepted."

The Presidential Legal Expense Trust, which sources said has raised more than \$500,000, was set up last June to help defray the Clintons' legal expenses in the Whitewater investigation and the sexual-harassment lawsuit filed against the president.

dent by a former Arkansas state employee, Paula Corbin Jones. (WP)

2 Star Democrats Shill a Snack

ALBANY, New York — Will Mario M. Cuomo, munching on a handful of Doritos, turn to Ann Richards and say: "Mmmmm. These are so good, I think I'll eat them liberally?"

The script remains a secret, but politicians and advertising executives said that the former governors of New York and Texas, both losers in their bids for re-election last year, will appear together in a commercial for Frito-Lay's Doritos corn chips that will be broadcast during the Super Bowl on Sunday.

In Texas and New York, rumors have circulated for weeks that the Democrats, once considered the inspirational stars of their party, had been reduced to hawking snacks. On Tuesday, sources said the rumor was true. Both Mr. Cuomo of New York and Ms. Richards of Texas were in California last weekend, presumably for filming. (NYT)

U.S. Mayors Raise Their Voices

WASHINGTON — About 240 mayors of American cities have assembled here to assert their role as

House Readies Assault on Arms Ban

By Katharine Q. Seelye
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — More than two dozen Democrats in the House are prepared to oppose President Bill Clinton and join a hand of Republicans who are about to undertake an early effort to repeal the nationwide ban on assault weapons that was passed by Congress and signed into law last year.

Egged on by the National Rifle Association, rank-and-file members of both parties in the House want to include a repeal of the ban in anti-crime legislation that could be discussed in committee as early as Friday and could reach the House floor early next month.

The movement started to jell after Mr. Clinton forcefully defended the assault weapons ban in his State of the Union address Tuesday evening. "I will not let it be repealed," he said of the ban on 19 types of assault weapons.

People on both sides of the issue say the House almost certainly has the votes to repeal the ban and may have the votes to override an almost certain presidential

veto. The outlook is far less clear in the Senate.

House Republican leaders, however, would prefer to delay action on the divisive issue until after the first 100 days, which they have set aside to concentrate on their so-called "Contract with America."

The contract includes a reconsideration of last year's crime bill but omits mention of the ban because leaders are afraid the politically explosive issue could sink their efforts to overhaul last year's \$30 billion crime package.

Whether the repeal is proposed sooner as part of the new crime bill or later as a separate measure, however, leaders said it would be hard to stop.

"I think that is inevitable," House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Representative of Georgia, said Wednesday of the repeal attempt. "Obviously, the president was sending out a signal that if that bill gets to his desk, he will veto it." He added, "It is very unlikely that we would stop such a bill from moving through the House."

Tanya K. Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, said Wednesday that there were several members of the

Judiciary Committee who "are talking about offering amendments" to the new crime bill to repeal the ban.

In addition, there are at least two dozen Democrats eager to push amendments to repeal the ban.

In a letter to Mr. Gingrich, 26 Democrats, led by Representative Bill Brewster of Oklahoma, warned that they intended "to use every parliamentary opportunity and procedure to repeal the ban" at the "first opportunity."

And the new crime bill presents just that opportunity.

Representative Henry J. Hyde, Republican of Illinois, who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee and who voted in favor of the ban last year, said the leadership wanted to keep the ban out of the new crime bill because it would transform the new crime bill "into a gun bill."

"The crime bill is headed for trouble anyway," said one Republican aide, adding that Mr. Clinton might veto it anyway because it cuts money for prevention programs that he favored. "If it has the gun ban in it, Clinton could win the public relations battle by calling it a gun bill."

House Begins Its Budget Balancing Act

By David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives has begun debating a constitutional amendment to balance a federal budget, one of the most profound measures to come before Congress in years.

Set aside the claims and counterclaims about Democrats being profligate and Republicans wanting to destroy Social Security and bankrupt the states. Those are political side issues.

What is really at stake is a fundamental and ostensibly permanent change in the way the U.S. government works. Powerful arguments can be made for and against such a change. Here is an examination of three of the strongest arguments for such a constitutional amendment and the way opponents are rebutting them.

• As a matter of principle, the government should have to live within its means just as states and cities and families do.

Until relatively recently, this was the dominant view of U.S. fiscal policy. Except during wartime, large federal deficits — the difference between what the government spends and what it receives in taxes and other revenues — were out of the question.

Proponents of the amendment often cite this quotation from Harry Truman: "There is nothing sacred about the pay-as-you-go idea so far as I am concerned except that it represents the soundest principle of financing that I know."

Most economists agree that the huge deficits the government began running in the 1980s are dangerous to the future.

Charles L. Schulte of the Brookings Institution compares the deficits to terminal gnawing at the foundation of a building.

But many who feel most strongly about the need to reduce the deficit do not favor requiring that revenues match expenditures every year. Benjamin M. Friedman of Harvard says, "There is nothing magic about a balanced budget."

Ideally, they say, the budget would be in surplus in good times, and run manageable deficits when the economy was in recession.

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And no one, opponents of the amendment say, should insist it is wrong for the federal government to go into debt periodically to make the country better for the next generation.

• Without the discipline of a constitutional amendment, politicians will never take the steps necessary to reduce the deficit.

The problem is that the deficit cannot be reduced substantially simply by eliminating wasteful programs and cracking down on welfare cheats, as some conservatives seem to think, or by raising taxes on the wealthy and slashing spending at the Pentagon, as some liberals apparently believe.

The only way to get the government's finances under control is to enact measures that would be unappealing politically — so unpopular, in fact, that they could cost the politicians who support them their jobs.

A constitutional amendment might provide these politicians the political cover they need to cast courageous votes.

The argument on the other side is that the politicians will still face the hard choices about

raising taxes and cutting spending, and their votes will be no less unpopular because of a constitutional requirement.

• The requirement that the budget be in balance would force the government to set priorities.

For years, politicians have acted like hungry people in a free buffet line. Rather than decide which dishes to take, they simply pile up their plates with everything.

Under the budget laws enacted in 1990 and 1993, priorities must be addressed when new programs are considered.

But nothing requires the government to strip programs and examine tax breaks already on the books. A balanced-budget amendment would require the president and Congress to review every program in the government and decide which ones to disband.

The United Nations and Cambodia 1991-1995

With an introduction by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations

This essential reference work chronicles the central role played by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in supporting the peace process in Cambodia and organizing the landmark 1993 elections that led to the formation of a new, democratically elected Cambodian Government.

For the first time, the texts of more than 100 key United Nations documents relating to one of the largest and most complex peace-keeping operations have been gathered in a single volume. Complementing the documents, is an extensive introduction by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, which provides an overview of the Organization's contribution to the historic events in Cambodia.

The United Nations and Cambodia, 1991-1995, is the second volume in "The United Nations Blue Books Series." This series focuses on the role of the United Nations in helping to maintain international peace and security, promote development and human rights and respond to emergencies.

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U.S. and Vietnam to Sign Accord on Opening Ties

The Associated Press

HANOI — The United States and Vietnam are to sign an agreement Saturday allowing them to establish diplomatic relations for the first time, a U.S. official said Thursday.

The former enemies will open liaison offices in each other's capitals almost immediately after the signing, the official said.

The agreement, to be signed in Hanoi, settles questions

about compensation for diplomatic properties seized at the end of the Vietnam War, in 1975. The planned signing underscores the warming trend in relations, which began to emerge two years ago after a diplomatic freeze.

Under the accord, Vietnam will return or compensate for 36 U.S. properties, including the former U.S. Embassy building in Saigon, which is now Ho Chi

Minh City. The United States will turn over the former South Vietnamese Embassy in Washington.

The two sides initiated the properties accord last month but postponed a formal signing until they resolved final details.

The agreement, once signed, will represent de facto diplomatic recognition, and the United States will take posse-

sion of a building to house its liaison office at that time, the official said.

The U.S. office will handle consular, political and commercial functions and will probably serve as a transitional step toward the eventual exchange of ambassadors.

The State Department has assigned 11 diplomats to work in the office.

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Away From Politics

• A man who allegedly threatened President Bill

Bombs in Kashmir Miss Their Targets But Leave 8 Dead

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — India's top official in the disputed state of Kashmir and the Indian military commander in the state had narrow escapes Thursday when three remote-controlled bombs exploded at a rally to celebrate India's Republic Day in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital. The explosions killed at least eight people and wounded many more.

Although the blasts failed in their apparent objective of killing the governor of Kashmir, K.V. Krishna Rao, who is a retired army general, and the army commander, Lieutenant General L.T. Surender Singh, the attack underscored the power of the Muslim rebels who are contesting India's rule in what is the country's only Muslim-majority state. Mr. Rao emerged from the bombing with wabi Indian news reports said were minor bruises.

The blasts also jarred what many Indians had seen as the most auspicious Republic Day in many years. There had been widespread enthusiasm across the country because the principal guest for the celebrations in New Delhi was President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

CAMP: Death's Kingdom

Continued from Page 1

created only a few yards from the camp's barbed wire, Rabbi Weiss held up a placard reading, "Where Was This Cross 50 Years Ago?" The placard was promptly torn to shreds by an angry Pole.

There is so much to remember but so few with direct experience left to bear witness. When, on Jan. 27, 1945, advancing Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz and the adjacent Birkenau camp, they found only 7,000 skeletal inmates remaining. Some 58,000 others had been burned by the SS on death marches into Germany.

Allied intelligence had been aware as early as 1943 that the Auschwitz complex was used as a death camp; many survivors are still furious that U.S. and British war planners refused to divert bombers to destroy the

who has used his visit here to thank India for what he has described as India's key role in isolating the old apartheid regime in South Africa.

The annual parade in New Delhi passed without incident. But nervousness among Indian security officials was reflected in multiple security checks for all those approaching within hundreds of meters of the glassed-in reviewing stand where Mr. Mandela and Indian dignitaries, including Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, watched a parade that ranged from the latest Indian missiles to a brightly uniformed military band with all of its members on camels.

The attack in Kashmir was a new setback for the Indian government in its declared objective of holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir, as the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir is called. After five years of confronting an insurgency in which at least 17,000 people have died, Indian control of the state is maintained by what amounts to a military government backed by a force of army and police officers that some Indian military analysts believe may number as many as 500,000 men.

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Mandela of South Africa,

gas chambers or rail lines. But the magnitude of the slaughter and the industrial efficiency with which it was carried out still defies belief.

By 1942, the former Polish military compound was a vast factory of death. Five gas chambers and crematoria reduced up to 9,000 victims a day to ash. Unspeakable medical experiments were conducted by Josef Mengele and hishenchmen on twins, pregnant women and children. Soviet soldiers found seven tons of women's hair, shorn from those about to die.

"My family remained here. My parents, my brother, my grandfather," said Maryla Michalowska-Diamant of Brussels, who survived 18 months in Auschwitz and the subsequent death march. "They are lying here everywhere. Perhaps we are walking over them now."

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"It was regrettable we could not save more lives," the commander, Lieutenant General Yusuke Matsushima, said as he wiped tears from his eyes during a news conference.

"I understand why people were so upset," he continued. "People said, 'Why didn't you come help sooner? Why weren't you there? I understand, but it was the situation."

By most Japanese accounts, it was not the

military's fault that soldiers did not rush to the area. Rather, elected officials and civilian bureaucrats got into an extended argument about the proper wording of the request the

prefectural government should make to request military assistance.

After the proper request was made for army help, it reportedly took another day to submit the correct form seeking help from the navy.

Because memories of Japan's disaster in World War II still burn strongly with the older generation, it can be a complicated process to get the Japanese military involved in anything — even emergency disaster relief. In the case of the earthquake, days were lost when soldiers might have helped put out fires, find buried people amid the wreckage and assist survivors.

The death toll from the quake rose to 5,083

Thursday, with 51 people still listed as missing, police said.

(AP, WP)

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After

International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Auschwitz Remembrance

At its worst, this has been Satan's century. In no previous age have people shown so great an aptitude, and appetite, for killing millions of other people for reasons of race, religion or class. Nowhere else was this more grimly borne out than at the Auschwitz death camp, whose existence became universally known 50 years ago.

Initially, even its Red Army liberators could scarcely credit what they came upon in southern Poland — slave laborers thin as matchsticks, children chewed up in demented laboratory experiments, and the remains of four gas chambers and crematorium ovens that once claimed 20,000 victims a day. The images of Auschwitz are seared in memory: the bodies heaped like kindling, the 43,000 pairs of shoes, the piles of human hair.

So horrific was this death factory and what it signified that it was soon entwined with myth and politics. A museum was established at the site in 1947, only to become the focus of impassioned arguments. Under Poland's Communists regime the number of victims was inflated to 4 million and their overwhelmingly Jewish identity minimized, thereby providing fodder for Holocaust deniers.

To this day, Auschwitz defeats sense and comprehension. What began in 1940 as a German concentration camp for

some 700 Polish prisoners swiftly expanded into a vast slave-labor complex including a killing field. Within months after the 1942 Wannsee Conference in Berlin, at which Nazi chieftains worked out the "Final Solution," the first convoy of Dutch Jews arrived at Auschwitz. By 1945, 1.1 million to 1.5 million people had died there and at the adjacent Birkenau camp, of whom 90 percent were Jews. Some 150,000 non-Jewish Poles were dispatched to Auschwitz, of whom half were killed — along with 20,000 Gypsies, 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war and 25,000 people of other nationalities.

That the killings continued even to the last moment darkens the blot on Germany's reputation. Yet it is also a matter of record that even when the Americans and British learned what was happening at Auschwitz, senior officials rejected pleas to bomb the death camp and its rail approaches, a failure of imagination that today seems incomprehensible.

The only preventive for a repetition of Auschwitz is remembrance. That is why the Polish government was so wrong in its initial decision to prevent the recitation of the Jewish prayer for the dead at commemorative ceremonies, and why Elie Wiesel and others were so right to insist on its inclusion.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

The 38th Parallel Face-Off

The armies mustered along the 38th parallel dividing North and South Korea are a dangerously volatile legacy of the Cold War. Now that a nuclear agreement has been reached with North Korea and the North is living up to its end of the bargain, the United States and the two Koreas need to discuss ways to step back from military confrontation.

The sheer size of the forces arrayed on both sides — a million in the North, 750,000 in the South, including 37,000 Americans — is dangerous enough. Their concentration along the 38th parallel raises the risk of impulsive reaction in tense times. These risks can be eased by force reductions and measures to build confidence on both sides, such as limiting the size of military exercises, providing advance notification of any troop movements and establishing a hot line between military commands.

The North's missile programs are also a source of instability, both on the Korean Peninsula and beyond, and need to be addressed. The North is developing a missile capable of reaching Japan and has tried to market its short-range missiles. It must abandon those efforts as part of an attempt to resolve outstanding issues.

North Korea has already proposed troop cuts of 100,000 per side. That would ease the strain on the North's economy, but it might do little to promote stability unless it involved thinning out forces along the North-South divide.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Veering Back and Forth

In the State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Bill Clinton was plainly trying to preempt and co-opt the successful Republican political message of last fall. You had the feeling that a lot of positioning had gone on, and this always raises suspicions as to substance and sincerity. On some of his moves toward what he believes to be the political outlook the American voters mandated, Mr. Clinton, it seems to us, moved toward common sense and away from misguided policy. But there was a good deal of veering back and forth. He alternately suggested he agreed with the Republicans on many things and sought to reassure Democrats that there were also matters on which he would stand and fight.

Occasionally he was forthright, as when he warned he would block repeal of last year's ban on the manufacture and sale of assault weapons. He was clear as well on some essential aspects of welfare not add to the deficit. He was also right to stress the themes of personal and civic responsibility and the importance of institutions outside government — the community groups that "do the work of citizenship" in determining national well-being.

But on too many other issues, he chose to speak obliquely and in code. The administration has claimed to think the balanced-budget amendment to the constitution on which the House is voting this week could have disastrous consequences; but the president would say only that the proponents owe the public an explanation of how the balance would be achieved. Administration officials likewise think the unfunded mandates legislation on which both houses are at work could have grave consequences if carried too far, but the president said

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

only that he wanted to work with Congress to "pass a reasonable bill which will protect the national interest [i.e.,] give justified relief." The administration believes that some of the deregulatory legislation in Congress also goes too far; he dealt with that by saying that Congress should "remember what national action in the national interest has given us" in the form of cleaner water and air, safer food and cars and all the rest.

As a tactical matter it is fair enough, maybe even wise, for a president whose party has just taken a beating at the polls to try to blur his differences with the opposition. Mr. Clinton's problem is that in the last two years, he has done more than just blur differences for tactical reasons. He has a history both of trying too hard to please and of folding.

Yes, the president has taken risks — for deficit reduction, gun control and, after much wobbling, NAFTA. But there are doubts, and this speech did not dispel them, about how long the president's positions will stand. He would have done himself some good had he said just once in the course of wrapping himself in Republican themes, here is where the other side is wrong. He never quite did it.

Defenders argue that the speech did serve the important purpose of putting the president back into the argument. By accepting some of the opposition's themes while seeking to moderate and bend them, he suggested the Republicans might be right about some things and made himself a player in a way he otherwise could not hope to be. The question is, a player to what end? How hard is he going to fight, and for what? Eighty-two minutes of speech, and you still don't know.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.



Mideast: Too Much Is at Stake to Hunker Down Now

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The famous Washington handshake a year and a half ago sealed only a Declaration of Principles between Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, and Yasser Arafat, representing the Palestine Liberation Organization. Peace is not yet at hand.

In fact, the painfully slow "peace process" can be said, as some Israelis have done, to have provoked more terrorism and more deaths, as extremists try to blow it up and Israeli security exercises more "muscular" interrogation of prisoners (read torture) to catch terrorist organizers.

Mr. Rabin was right to insist, despite loud Israeli clamor, that he would not cede victory to the perpetrators by calling off negotiations with the PLO. But President Ezer Weizman also deserves a hearing when he calls for a suspension of the stalled talks while "we rethink which way we are going."

His intervention was startling. Mr. Weizman played a key role in the Israeli-Egyptian settlement and has long been an ardent advocate of peace with the Arabs, including Palestinians. "Ezer lost his head," anonymous Israeli officials were quoted as saying.

The trouble is that the Principles are based on ambiguity, fudging and postponing all the hard issues, on the theory that Israelis and Palestinians need time to get used to the idea of co-existence and to build trust.

It isn't working that way. Time is strengthening those on both sides who are convinced that force is the only answer.

Each mass-terror attack deepens the emotional shock and distress of Israelis as they

contemplate the risk of the concessions Palestinians need to regain faith in the "peace process." There isn't enough consensus on either side to provide a firm base for what the cautious negotiators might achieve.

Scaling off both the autonomous regions and the West Bank again, Mr. Rabin has reached the conclusion that only "separation" of the two peoples can bring safety. This is at the cost of devastating what little there is of a sustaining economy for the Palestinians, who need the work Israel offers, as well as a relatively minor loss for Israeli employers, it only makes things worse.

Yet Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian negotiator, has said that separation is acceptable if it comes with a Palestinian state.

This is the crux of the issue. The "peace process," as now conducted, skirts the key questions — Palestinian independence, Jewish settlements and Jerusalem. They cannot be avoided much longer. But neither can they be somehow anesthetized while the principals haggle over the interim. Each step, however small, is evaluated by how it will influence the ultimate decision.

It is time to drop the euphemism and the side-stepping, and face the real issues. When Mr. Rabin speaks of "separation," it is enough of an implication of a Palestinian state to infuriate Israeli opponents, but not enough to hearten those Palestinians who do want peace.

To recapture the promise of the handshake

this much later, the courage of candor has become essential. Everyone involved knows what has been set aside, and everyone knows that eventually it will have to be confronted either with compromise or resignation to years more of bloody hostility and frustration.

No doubt this is what Mr. Weizman means when he asks Israel to "rethink where we are going." It is still true, as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in explaining the underpinning for the Oslo agreement, that Israel is not strong enough to impose the peace it wants, and too strong to be defeated. The consequences have to be more impasse, or compromise, and he accepted that logic.

But it has not yet been clearly put, either to the Israeli public or to the Palestinians. Understandably, that isn't easy for the politicians who are responsible, all the less for a democratically elected leader such as Mr. Rabin with a fragile hold on power. Still, it must be done if the hope for peace is to retain enough vitality to flourish.

The United States has been wary and timid, supporting Israel but not accepting the risk of challenging the dangerous ambiguities. It could be clearer, at least openly pressing the partner-antagonists in the peace process to shed the pretenses veiling the dilemma.

Mr. Rabin is said to be considering skipping the badly functioning search for an interim solution and moving on to the negotiations on final status provided for in the 1993 accord. He should be encouraged. There is too much at stake to hunker down and mark time.

© Flora Lewis.

A Pause in the Process, Not Panicky Self-Destruction

By William Safire

LONDON — The reaction of

peace processors in Jerusalem and Washington to the Beit Lid massacre, in which Islamic suicide bombers wiped out a score of Israelis, has been shock, anger, sorrow — but a determination that terrorist attacks not be allowed to stop the peace process.

That is based on this widely

held premise: Because extremists

do not want negotiations to succeed,

it follows that the way to

foil their tactics is to press on with

negotiations no matter what

atrocities they perpetrate.

In that way, goes the logic,

moderate Palestinians

(who profess

to want only the

West Bank

and East Jerusalem)

will triumph,

and extremist Palestinians

(who demand no less than the destruction of the Zionist entity) will be defeated.

The questions now being asked

are these: What if conventional

wisdom is wrong?

What if the

negotiating arm is not in control

of the Arab body politic?

What if Israel's

hopes are less realistic

than its fears?

For a time, Israeli optimists

held such a moderate-extremist Arab theory.

To them, the *intifada* — the uprising of young, local Palestinian Arabs — was a blessing in disguise. It asserted the power of

Arabs living in the area in contrast to the power of the millions of displaced Palestinians headed

in Tunis.

Most *intifada* leaders of a new

generation, although loyal to the legendary Yasser Arafat, wanted

nationhood in the disputed West

Bank, where they lived; but most of

the overseas Palestinians

dreamed of their "right of return"

to homes along Israel's coast.

Israelis hoped that the younger

local leadership would gain

control, and years ago some even

thought that Hamas might be the

answer to the older PLO rigidity.

After the Labor government

won its election, Shimon Peres

chose to deal secretly in Oslo with

the interlocutors he knew best:

the overseas Palestinians.

The outsiders are in command.

Gaza was infiltrated by the Islam

ic Jihad; Iran's Hezbollah is protected in Syria-controlled Lebanon; Hamas was long ago radicalized; suicide bombers are being indoctrinated by the Jihad outside Damascus. Smart Palestinian clans dispersed across these factions as well as the PLO.

A decade ago, a Fatah opponent

of Mr. Arafat, Hanan Hassan, said,

"The armed struggle will plant the seeds, and the political struggle will reap the harvest."

His prediction is coming true:

today's violence is triggering calls

in Israel for "separation," which

means more than a fence around

Gaza. To Arabs, it means pushing

Israeli settlers out of the West

Bank and suburbs of Jerusalem

— for a start.

That is why it is a self-delusion

to think that new restrictions on

settlements, or a turnover of the

whole West Bank to PLO rule,

will bring an end to violence or

satisfy Palestinian demands.

The ultimate deal that is made

with the negotiating Palestinians is

only Phase One of the goal of too

many others. These violent others

are not to be dismissed as fanatics;

they are the deniable shock troops

in the Arab war of attrition.

That is why many Israelis now believe it is not enough for Israel to close its border with Gaza again, or to squeeze a grudging

condemnation and some token

arrests out of Mr. Arafat, or to

stage some botched military

vengeance across borders.

Beijing to Moscow: Across Wide Open Spaces by Train

By Diana Bird

MOSCOW — From mid-June into July, my husband and I traveled with a tour, meeting in Beijing to board a train at the Great Wall. We went north to Mongolia, where we entrained the so-called Nostalgic Istanbul Orient Express to be taken through Siberia to Moscow — accompanied by lecturers in a variety of disciplines and tour officials who planned our visits along the way and eased the hazards of international travel.

China, Mongolia and Russia all claim land that is so inhospitable that few people can be supported upon it and few can be persuaded to inhabit it. The Gobi Desert, which we crossed in China and Mongolia is that sort of land, as is much of Siberia.

The Chinese train that we boarded at the Great Wall stopped at the Mongolian border for us to change to the Orient Express at Urumqi. A number of police and military personnel were about, and the other inhabitants often looked dark and tough as if they spent most of their lives combating the desert haze and storms. Merchandise was displayed outdoors and there were dozens of pool tables at outdoor "pool halls." The business of train changing and, later on, border crossing took up half a day and half a night.

In the dawning light as we traveled into Mongolia, the severe desert gradually transformed into rolling grassland hills, as beautifully contoured as any modern sculpture. The sensuousness of the land formations, in some places almost entirely treeless, in others darkened by patches of

evergreens, was more appealing to me than the rugged mountains we saw in China on our way to Mongolia.

The mantle of grass that covers the land is thin. In places, the tan soil emerges if great care in grazing is not observed and if heavy rains are not controlled with terraces, ditching and other means to guide and contain the water, erosion could damage and perhaps destroy the productive capacity of the pastures.

We arrived in the morning at Mongolia's capital, Ulan Bator. Here I had the opportunity to observe a traditional society that has stepped far enough into modern times to please the tastes of Westerners. Comfortable accommodations are available in an up-to-date city, yet a Buddhist temple complex is filled with 20 chanting Buddhist monks in red robes worshiping in an atmosphere redolent of incense.

Here the faithful line up to purchase incense and holy water. Devout citizens bring money to the monks, one of whom is eager to help the crowd file around the chanting men in the small temple. Many of the monks are concentrating on songs recorded on pieces of paper covered with Mongolian calligraphy.

Ulan Bator is home to half a million people, a big percentage of the country's population. More than half the city dwellers live in cement apartments, and there are many new tall apartment buildings on the outskirts of the city. A bus transport system carries the population around — something of a surprise to us since we had come from bicycle-dense Beijing.

At the national library are ancient

Buddhist texts from many parts of the Mongolian world. Boxes made to store these loose leaves are decorated on the top with exquisite bronze and gold sculptures. A museum displays reconstructed dinosaurs and the myriad wild animals that inhabit this large, pristine country.

This remote and exotic country may be on the threshold of radical change, but now one can still see the timeless grasslands with herds of cattle, sheep and horses, and their attendant horsemen, pursuing their nomadic existence as they have done since the time of Genghis Khan.

As the countryside opened up to us for the thousands of miles we traveled west into Siberia, we were more or less constantly in rolling or hilly land covered with birch, spruce, Siberian pine and other sorts of evergreen and deciduous trees. Valleys of pastures and fields stretched toward the hills everywhere. Only at Lake Baikal did we see a patch of snow remaining, but we were told that in this region there are only 72 frost-free days a year.

Familiar wild flowers growing near the train track delighted us — lupine, nightshade, Queen Anne's lace, dame's rocket, bouncing bet, and many others. The weather was warm to hot every day. In some places a crop seemed ready to harvest even though in others land had recently been plowed for sowing, exposing a dark chocolate-colored earth.

At Ulan-Ude, the capital of the Buryat Autonomous Republic, our first Siberian destination, we visited an opera house built in 1968. The seating is arranged in a

circle, and the stage is so large it can accommodate the most demanding productions. In this Siberian outpost, no one would have anticipated finding so accomplished a theater.

At Ulan-Ude, I began to feel disoriented — I had no understanding of where I was. I seemed "an inland castaway," as Robert Louis Stevenson described himself at one point in his "Travels With a Donkey." Analyzing this feeling as we went along, I decided it was a consequence of believing I would never be there again. There was something about entering Russia from Mongolia that left me hanging.

We traveled overnight from Ulan-Ude to Lake Baikal. A large stone had fallen on the track we were to take up the western shore of the lake and officials feared other stones might be loosened by the vibrations of the train, so we were routed to Irkutsk, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) away.

Driving around Irkutsk, we saw remnants of old wooden houses sinking into the ground because they were not built on foundations. The city was founded in 1661, where the Angara and the Irkut rivers join, the Angara being the only river that drains Lake Baikal; Irkutsk is well located as a Siberian trading center.

We visited an old church that recently had been refurbished. The ceilings and walls were decorated with illustrations of biblical stories and everything was more reminiscent of a European church than of the historic churches and cathedrals one sees west of the Urals, where icons and hieratically styled paintings are the norm.

And on another occasion, we were treated to folk music and dancing. I was

moved to hear the works because of the struggles the Siberians are undergoing today to keep their society together. I thought the performers were fortifying themselves with the heroism of those courageous men and women who 175 years before had endured the isolation and privations of Irkutsk before their was a Trans-Siberian railway.

Outside Perm, an electrical malfunction stopped our engine, causing wheel damage on several cars. We waited until a new engine was found and we were brought into Perm, where the train was disassembled. It was wonderful to see the readiness with which a night crew was organized to work in the rain to replace the wheels on two carriages, one of which I was traveling. About 12 men, working all at once, with the aid of a crane, expertly and cooperatively accomplished this operation.

Because our adventure in Perm delayed our train for at least eight hours, an anticipated stop in Yaroslavl had to be omitted and we arrived in Moscow at 2 A.M. Upon leaving the train, I thought of Robert Louis Stevenson's conflicted emotions when parting at Saint Jean-du-Gard, France, with his donkey, Modestine. Together they had walked 120 miles in the difficult Cevennes in 1878. Modestine made his journey possible, but she was demanding and confirming too. He claims he wept when it came to saying her. In the early morning at the Moscow station, it was pleasant to anticipate a stationary bed and roomy quarters, but with that change, our journey was nearly over. I did not weep, but I had some regrets.

Diana Bird is a writer who lives in Virginia.

THE MOVIE GUIDE

Un Indien dans la Ville

Directed by Hervé Palud. France.
Steph (Thierry Lhermitte), a hard-pressed yuppie, is trying to fit in a divorce and remarriage between tall orders on the Bourse. He goes to the depths of the Amazonian forest, power-book in hand, to find Patricia (Miou-Miou), who has changed her name to Palikou and who introduces him to Mimi-Siku (Ludwig Briad), his son. The young savage wants to see Paris: The movie gets its laughs from scenes such as the boy ambling down the Champs-Elysées half naked in the midst of traffic, and climbing the Eiffel Tower. These antics have distracted his father, who makes mistakes in business and love, botching his affair with Charlotte (Arielle Dombasle), a New Age pre-

cious ridicule. Palud's efficient script works over themes like fake guru remedies for civilization's ills, of course marriage and children win out. The movie, essentially "Crocodile Dundee" aimed at 10-year-olds and their grandmothers, delivers, thanks to the energetic Lhermitte (who also co-produced). Lhermitte and Miou-Miou share a style that goes back to their cafe-theater beginnings: they know about tempo. Briad, who played Gavroche in Robert Hossein's "Les Misérables," makes a fetching little Indian. (Joan Dupont, *IHT*)

S.P.Q.R.
Directed by Carlo Vanzina. Italy.
Not even the combined screen charisma of Christian De Sica, Massimo Boldi and

the American comic actor Leslie Nielsen can save this perfunctory extravaganza from the purgatory of mediocrity. Carlo Vanzina, a director best known for light, mass-market Italian comedies, exceeds both his reach and grasp in an ambitious comedy that never gets out of low gear. Set 2,000 years ago in Imperial Rome, "S.P.Q.R." was conceived as a satire of contemporary Italian politics. Boldi plays the part of Antonio Servilio, a magistrate from the northern province of Mediolanum who comes to Rome to investigate political payoffs. De Sica is Cesare Atticus, senator and factotum of Lucio Cinico (Nielsen), the mastermind and puppet master of Rome's corrupt political machine. The premise is promising, as are the opening 10 minutes of the film. Yet the script — which Vanzina wrote along with his brother Enrico — soon loses both momentum and direction. Is it a satire? A sex comedy? A historical farce? Or a distant mirror? Not even the director seems to know. "S.P.Q.R." drifts into a morass of stale, third-rate gags and painfully predictable plot turns. (Ken Shulman, *IHT*)

I.Q.
Directed by Fred Schepisi. U.S.
The nice thing about "I.Q." is that its intelligence doesn't stop at the title. In a romantic comedy that mingles brilliant physicists with auto mechanics, everybody manages to seem smart. Most of all Fred Schepisi, the director, who has figured out how to get the absolute best out of his leading actors. Schepisi is so clever that his audience will have no trouble believing Walter Matthau as Albert Einstein, and that's just for starters. "I.Q." features wonderful comic performances from both Meg Ryan, who is newly calm and composed here, and Tim Robbins, who is all dimples and slow, easy delivery. Oozing total sexual confidence, Robbins plays a mechanic who really likes comets, and Ryan plays a scientist who doesn't much like auto mechanics. And happens to be Einstein's niece. Another thing Schepisi makes easy to believe is that when these two meet, they fall instantly in love. Everyone is exactly what he or she seems. So a bow-tie-wearing professor (Laurence Fishburne) is superficial but wise. Surfer-girl blondes

are airheads and casual racists. Lesbians are sensitive and kindly, but radical feminists may show up at consciousness-raising rallies dressed as nuns. Nice guys wear condoms. Bad guys rape their inebriated dates. Really bad guys say things like: "We're white in America. What more do you need, man?" "Higher Learning" plays like an entertaining television series punctuated by heavy-handed moralizing. There are enough little lectures to warrant course credit before the film is over. (Janet Maslin, *NYT*)

HIGHER LEARNING
Directed by John Singleton. U.S.
John Singleton's caustic film about the racial and sexual prejudices that color life on a microcosmic college campus turns out to be an inadvertent example of the same small-mindedness he deplores. Everyone here from beer-swilling white fraternity boys to rap-loving black students harassed by the campus police, can be judged at face value. Everyone is exactly what he or she seems. So a bow-tie-wearing professor (Laurence Fishburne) is superficial but wise. Surfer-girl blondes

are airheads and casual racists. Lesbians are sensitive and kindly, but radical feminists may show up at consciousness-raising rallies dressed as nuns. Nice guys wear condoms. Bad guys rape their inebriated dates. Really bad guys say things like: "We're white in America. What more do you need, man?" "Higher Learning" plays like an entertaining television series punctuated by heavy-handed moralizing. There are enough little lectures to warrant course credit before the film is over. (Janet Maslin, *NYT*)

PARIS — A standing ovation under a bunting of carnations greeted Christian Lacroix for his exquisite watercolor collection, which ended the spring-summer couture season on a high, sweet note.

Each dress was framed like an aquarelle against the runway arch: pale blue satin streaked at the waist with the mauve of a dawn sky; tulle misting a herba-

Paris Fashion
ceous print on taffeta; a nimbus of fabric floating saucily over the derriere; and lace, in the silver gray of wet Paris rooftops, sparkling with raindrops of embroidery.

The bravos that brought Lacroix back on stage were for the moth-wing delicacy of fabrics, textures, colors and embellishment — which together created effects so subtle that they are difficult to convey even in pictures.

"Now we know why we are here in Paris," said Joan Kaner of Neiman Marcus, one of the first to leap to her feet. "It was the most exquisite collection. It was light, it was frothy, it was divine. He will keep couture alive."

How to explain the Real Thing in couture? In Lacroix's case, it is not about line — the point of the show was that the silhouette was nebulous, as a butterfly in satin bolero, soft as a bed jacket, stopped negligently off the shoulders of a ball gown. Or skirts just wafted vaguely, loose and light, around the knees.

Lacroix's couture is rather a romantic vision, expressed by fusing his creative imagination with Parisian craftsmanship. So one of the pallid evening dresses, touched with moonbeam silver, was actually made with tiny embroidered star-flowers. Cel-



Lacroix's gingham-checked taffeta dress, touch of lace.

ery-green gloves themselves a work of art, ran up the arms, and from the ears dangled glassy jewels, as light as 18th century bijoux.

Yet the show looked modern. In its way, given that Lacroix is an evening-wear designer, focused on the salon. Day clothes went with simple pants, as

though he were offering the couture a hand-woven tweed jacket and the couture items and the rest as a backcloth.

Other outfits teetered toward costume. But when Lacroix made a ballerina dress, it was not so much theatrical as a young girl's dream of the ballet, with a skirt flowered beneath a bustier top. And his one wild splash of color — dusty pink, burnt orange and stocking pink — was on a bustled corset dress — was a bolt of lightning.

"I think couture should be a little exotic — for a woman who is not especially a 'fashion' person, and above all, things that cannot be done in ready-to-wear," Lacroix said.

So familiar lingerie effects — corset, slip dress and encrustations of lace — were raised to a different plane. Instead of displaying supermodel flesh, they suggested a sweet disorder in the dress, as black lace peeked out of a wrapped polka-dot dress or a black-and-white gingham taffeta revealed its lace petticoat.

Cutting the sweetness were occasional flashes of contemporary style, although they were not always the most successful outfit: a curving military jacket or a blouson, with Carmen-

style shoulders, and a belt that cinched in at the waist.

Galiano, attending a party in honor of photographer Mario Testino, given by French Vogue, seemed to have polished his personal image in preparation for his hoped-for entry into couture at the house of Givenchy. The British designer had abandoned punk, grunge and kilts for his version of a sober suit (tailored skinhead jacket with checked Vivienne Westwood bondage pants). He denied that his collection was a pastiche, saying that it used the couture technique of cutting and stitching by which he is famous.

"It just feels right," says Galiano. "Couture is something that is in the air."

Herald Tribune

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■ Sure enough, it's awards time. We've just had the Golden Globes and we're coming up on the Oscars, but forget all that, here are the food awards. Regis Marcon, a French chef from a village in the Haute-Loire region, has won the Golden Bouche. The food in this competition may be full of surprises, but the outcome apparently isn't: France has won the biennial prize every time it has been allowed to enter (only every other competition). In a major upset, however, Belgians won the World Pastry Cup, followed by Japan and the United States. A new world order, no doubt.

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Bargain Wines and Atmosphere

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The wine prices alone will make you rub your eyes in disbelief, certain you're imagining through some leftover bin at the supermarket: A setting, typically dry and crisp, acidic 1990 Vouvray from the vineyards of Marc Bredif, for 47 francs (about \$9). A festive and bubbly nonvintage Taittinger Brut, for 106 francs. And from Bordeaux, an intense, tannic 1989 Saint-Julien Château Lagrange — an unusual blend of 50 percent merlot and 50 percent cabernet sauvignon — at 98 francs.

Blink again. You're dining at one of Paris's hottest new bargain spots, the monolithic *Les Bouchons de François Clerc*. In a city where overly inflated wine prices are taken with a Gallic shrug and an occasional rolling of the eyes, Clerc has begun a mini-revolution in restaurants, offering no less than 75 wines and Champagnes at cost. What's more, the list is a solid one, ranging from the well-known and generally expensive Coteaux d'Aix from Château de Trevalon (the 1991 is priced at 66 francs) to A. Brumont's explosive 1989 Madiran,

Château Bouscas Vieilles Vignes (at 72 francs). And for those who like to simply sip and sample, some nice half bottles are worth ordering, including Gagnard's 1990 red Burgundy, Chassagne-Montrachet 34 francs, and Chapoutier's 1993 Crozes-Hermitage "Petite Riche" at 22 francs. The most expensive wines, at 250 francs per bottle, include the super-concentrated 1992 Saint-Emilion Château Le Terre Roubouef; the rich and brilliant Sauternes — 1985 to 1989 — from Château Raymond-Lafon; and Armand Rousseau's supple, traditionally made 1992 red Burgundy, Chambertin-Clos de Bèze.

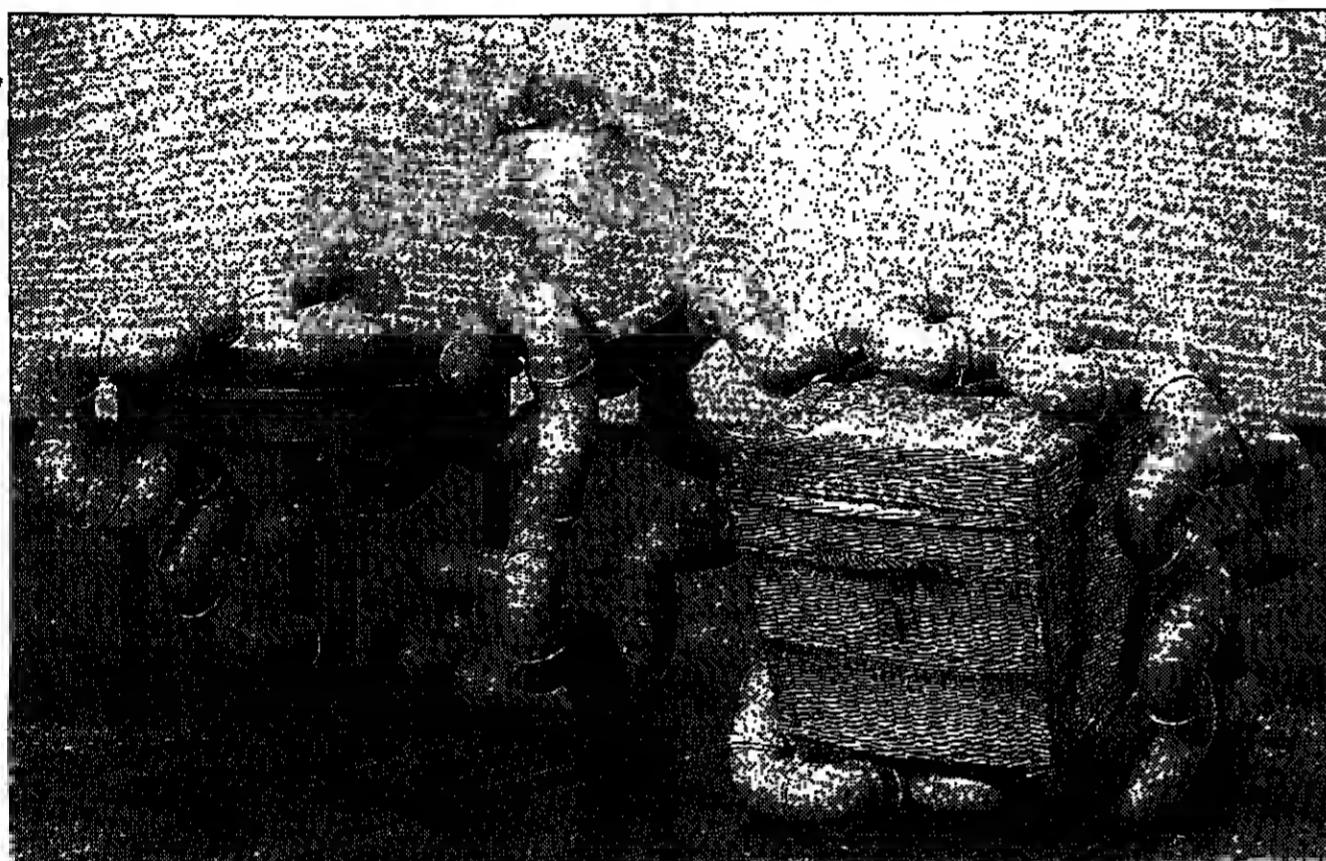
But beyond the wine bargains, Clerc's restaurant offers a picturesque Left Bank setting and an honorable 215-franc fixed-price menu that includes a lovely cheese tray plus dessert. The place does have that "we're just getting started" feel about it, as waiters confuse orders, and the timing is a bit off — a group of five may wait several minutes until each diner at the table has been served. But the waiters are aware of their bumbling and amuse you in such a way that all is forgiven. Situated in a beautifully restored stone-and-wooden-beamed space around the corner from Notre Dame,

Les Bouchons feels as though it has been there forever, and you feel as though you've been a regular for at least a decade.

The best dish on a recent visit was a whole duck — precisely roasted on the giant spit that juts out into the main-floor dining room. Brushed with a fragrant honey and ginger sauce, the poultry was delicately moist and had been allowed to rest just long enough to allow the juices to settle back into the flesh. Also worth sampling is the thick, pan-fried *tournedos de thon*, and a seven-hour gigot served in a pastry-wrapped crust. Respectable starters include a fresh *escabeche* of sardines (fried, then marinated in a blend of herbs, wine and vinegar) served with a strange "cake" studded with black olives; and a giant galette of lightly smoked salmon wrapped around a hole of warm potatoes. And the crusty, homemade bread gets a huge Bravo!

Les Bouchons de François Clerc, 12 Rue de l'Hôtel Colbert, Paris 5, tel: 43-54-15-34. Closed Saturday lunch and Sunday. Credit cards: American Express, MasterCard, Visa. 215-franc fixed-priced menu lunch and dinner; 115-franc menu lunch only.

THE ARTS GUIDE



Tony Cragg's "Perseus-Oltmans, 1985," in Rivoli, Italy, among 20th-century works from an Amsterdam museum.

BELGIUM

Brussels

La Monnaie, tel: (2) 218-12-11. A new production of Puccini's "Il Triciclo." Directed by Steve Winger, conducted by Antonio Pappano, with Jose Van Dam, Sonia Theodoridou and Gabriela Popescu. Feb. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 19.

Musée d'Art Ancien, tel: (2) 508-32-11, closed Mondays. Continuing/To Feb. 12: "De Vouet à David," 17th- and 18th-century French paintings. Includes paintings by Vouet, Champaigne and Van der Meulen.

BRITAIN

London

National Portrait Gallery, tel: (71) 306-0055, open daily. To June 18: "The Road from 1945: Makers of Postwar Britain." A selection of portraits from the period 1945-1959. The display celebrates the men and women who contributed to Britain's political, social and cultural history in the 15 years of postwar austerity and reconstruction.

Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (71) 494-5615, open daily. To April 5: "Niki de Saint Phalle." More than 90 paintings by the 17th-century French painter from the early works to the later paintings in which landscapes came to dominate.

Tate Gallery, tel: (71) 887-8000, open daily. Continuing/To Feb. 12: "From Gainsborough to the Pre-Raphaelites: Works on Paper." A selection of British watercolors which include landscapes by Turner, drawings by Rosetti and engravings by Stubbs.

CANADA

Quebec

Musée du Québec, tel: (418) 645-3330, closed Mondays. To May 14: "L'Art Québécois de l'Estampe, 1950-1990." 120 works by more than 40 Quebec artists, which include the development of the art of printmaking in Quebec and illustrate major contemporary art movements (Surrealist, Abstract, Pop Art, Op Art, Hyperrealism, etc.).

DENMARK

Humblebæk

Louisiana Museum for Modern Kunst, tel: 42-19-07-19, open daily. Continuing/To Feb. 5: "Toulouse-Lautrec and Paris."

FRANCE

Paris

Centre Culturel Suédois, tel: (1) 44-76-80-20, closed Mondays. To March 12: "Argenterie pour l'Utile et le Plastique." Silver and gold table ornaments and pieces of jewelry by contemporary Swedish silversmiths.

Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: (1) 44-76-80-80, closed Tuesdays. Continuing/To Feb. 20: "Kurt Schwitters." 300 paintings, collages, sculptures, typographical works and poems created between 1910 and 1947 by the German-born artist.

Mona Bismarck Foundation, tel: (1) 47-23-38-88, closed Sundays and Mondays. To March 25: "Alphonse Mucha (1860-1939)." Features more than 250 works, including illustrations, photographs, paintings, sculptures and jewelry.

cal or mythological themes. Modern Dutch paintings are also shown.

LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg Casin Luxembourg, tel: (352) 22-50-45, closed Mondays. To March 26: "Lucie Caine à Volonté." Regards sur l'Art Impressionniste.

Modernistic themes of the turn-of-the-century are represented in more than 150 paintings, including interiors by Bonnard and Vuillard, still lifes from Cézanne to Odilon Redon, landscapes from van Gogh to Vallotton and portraits from Gauguin to Matisse.

NETHERLANDS

The Hague Haaga Gemaentemuseum, tel: (31) 70-338-11-11, open daily.

Continuing/To April 30: "Piet Mondrian: 1870-1944." More than 160 paintings and works on paper documenting the Dutch painter's creative periods: the early landscapes, Cubist works and abstract works. The exhibition will travel to Washington and New York.

UNITED STATES

New York The Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesday. To April 25: "Kandinsky: Compositions." Forty works by the Russian artist (1866-1944) devoted to the body of work he called the "Composition paintings," with many pre-

liminary studies in oil, watercolor, ink and pencil.

Washington Washington Opera, Kennedy Center, tel: (202) 416-7611. Smetana's "The Bartered Bride." Conducted by Horst Fritsch, with Ann Paragoules and Mark Thomsen. Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3, 5 and 6.

Continuing/To April 30: "Piet Mondrian: 1870-1944." More than 160 paintings and works on paper documenting the Dutch painter's creative periods: the early landscapes, Cubist works and abstract works. The exhibition will travel to Washington and New York.

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VERSACE

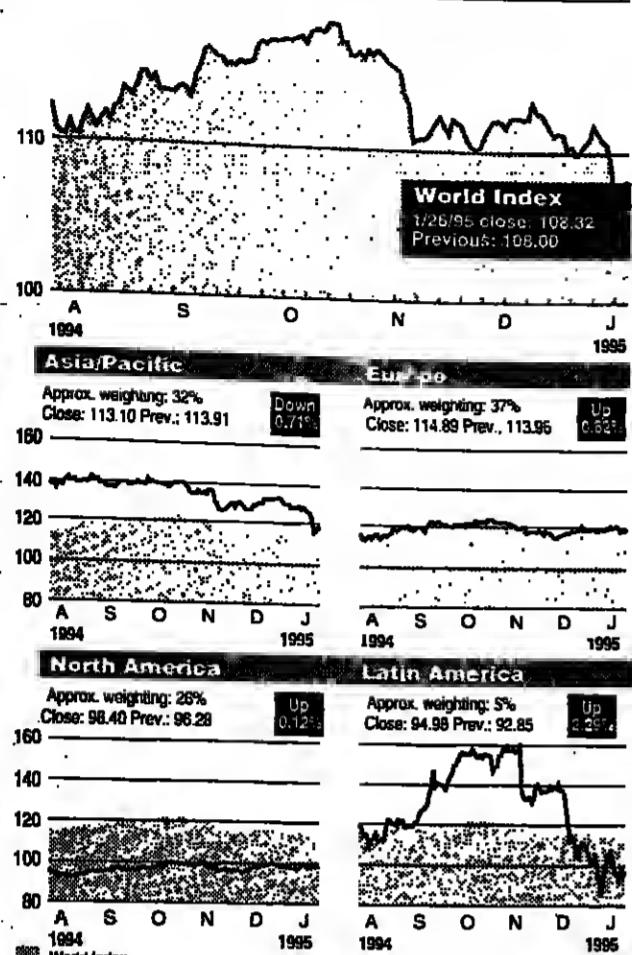
presents Madonna photographed by Steven Meisel



THE TRIB INDEX: 108.32

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News. Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.

120



The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and Amsterdam, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. For Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the top 20 issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the top 100 stocks are tracked.

Industrial Sectors

	Prev. close	% change		Prev. close	% change	
Energy	114.78	+1.37	+1.24	109.81	+1.09	-0.25
Utilities	118.29	+11.88	+0.35	134.24	+13.32	+0.68
Finance	104.11	+10.54	-0.41	101.78	+10.07	+0.70
Services	107.81	+10.20	+0.57	112.73	+11.22	+0.46

For more information about the Index, a booklet is available free of charge. Write to: TRIB Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92321 Neuilly Cedex, France.

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Thinking Ahead /Commentary

Bring Farm Subsidies Down to Earth

By Reginald Dale

International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The moment of truth may be at hand for some of the world's most indefensible monuments to old-fashioned protectionism: the complex edifices of subsidies and inflated prices that shield U.S. and European farmers from market forces.

For different reasons, the biggest farm-policy debates in years are getting under way on both sides of the Atlantic and new economic and political factors are working in favor of free markets.

With any luck, the European Union's notorious, French-inspired Common Agricultural Policy may be marching toward its Waterloo.

It is high time. European and U.S. farm policies have for far too long given preference to farmers over consumers, at a cost of billions of dollars to taxpayers, and discriminated against lower-cost producers in countries ranging from Argentina to Australia.

As the world's two agricultural Goliaths, the United States and the EU have imperiously dominated the trading system, while constantly accusing each other of distorting international markets.

Their acrimonious battles have pushed other issues to the sidelines and held up world trade negotiations — most notoriously the Uruguay Round of talks, whose provisions are finally entering into force this year, three years late.

But things are looking up. Despite a

hard-fought French rearguard action, the Uruguay Round has for the first time brought agriculture under international discipline, with commitments to reduce farm support programs and export subsidies. The EU has started to trim the Common Agricultural Policy under the so-called McSharry reforms of 1992.

Now pressure is growing on both sides of the Atlantic to go further. Plans to incorporate six Central European coun-

tries into the European Union around the turn of the century are forcing the EU to consider far more sweeping, even beneficial changes.

In the United States, budget constraints and the anti-government philosophy of the new Republican leaders in Congress are generating pressure to cut subsidies in this year's farm bill. Welfare reform is to go ahead, it may be politically necessary to slash payments to farmers too.

None of this will be easy. In Washington, the Republicans are split. Large numbers of them, including many of the feisty new intake in the House of Representatives, are from rural areas.

In the EU there will be bitter clashes

both among member states and inside the European Commission.

But it would be a disaster for Europe and for world trade if the current high-price Common Agricultural Policy were simply extended into Central Europe. That would distort the Central European economies and create huge new surpluses, making it difficult if not impossible for the EU to meet its Uruguay Round commitments. It would be a tragic irony to inflict the EU's biggest protectionist mistake on the ex-Communist countries just as they are struggling to create market economies. But it would be equally tragic to allow the CAP to hold up the EU's Eastward expansion.

The best solution is proposed in four reports commissioned by Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, just published in Brussels. It would effectively end the CAP by slashing or eliminating support prices, and compensating farmers with payments not linked to production.

The EU might even transfer responsibility for such payments to national governments — in much the same way that the Republicans in Washington are considering giving more powers to the states.

Keeping farmers on the land is increasingly seen as a social problem, not one of traditional farm policy, and overproduction due to high prices is causing mounting environmental concern. New techniques are matching production more closely with demand. Even Japan is beginning to open up. There could be no clearer sign that change is on the way.

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

Jan. 26

U.S. £ D.M. F.F. Lira D.F. S.F. Yen C\$ Pesos

Amsterdam 1.7890 1.2287 1.2287 1.0933 5.2434 1.1709 1.7890 1.2287

Brussels 31.3423 21.417 21.417 19.95 16.4 24.08 31.3423 21.417

Frankfurt 1.7890 1.2287 1.2287 1.0933 5.2434 1.1709 1.7890 1.2287

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MARKET DIARY

Stocks Mark Time Amid Uncertainty

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks ended slightly lower Thursday as a decline in automakers' shares offset a stream of strong fourth-quarter earnings and a flurry of takeover activity.

Investors also turned cautious before the release Friday of fourth-quarter gross domestic product data, which could determine whether U.S. interest rates will rise.

The Federal Open Market Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to decide the direction of interest rates. Many analysts expect tightening of 50 basis points, or half a percentage point.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.01 points lower, at 3,870.44.

But advancing issues outnumbered decliners by an 11-to-10 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume totaled 312 million shares.

"The market's direction is no direction," said Larry Wachtel, market analyst at Prudential Securities. "We've just gone into kind of this death watch

until the Fed tightens by 50 basis points next week."

Stocks lost ground despite a slight gain in bond prices. The benchmark 30-year U.S. Treasury bond was up 7/32, at 96 1/32, for a yield of 7.84 percent, down from 7.86 percent on Wednesday.

Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up, which rose 2 to 32 1/2, was the most active NYSE issue because of a takeover bid.

Auto stocks were the market's biggest decliners, amid concern that industry sales and profits are cresting sooner than expected. General Motors fell 1 1/2 to 37 1/2, and Ford Motor declined 5 to 25 1/2, and Chrysler slumped 1 1/2 to 45.

Technology stock rose, with Cirrus Logic gaining 3 1/2, to 27 1/2, after the stock's rating was raised in response to strong earnings. Lotus Development rose 1 1/16, to 44 1/4, supported by strong sales of its communications products.

Coca-Cola rose 1 1/4, to 51 1/4, after the soft-drink maker's fourth-quarter earnings rose 22 percent.

(AP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

U.S. Stocks

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Rate Uncertainty Keeps Dollar Market on Edge

Bloomberg Business News

NEW YORK — The dollar held roughly steady against other major currencies Thursday as traders waited for report due Friday on gross domestic product for clues about whether the Federal Reserve would raise rates next week.

The dollar closed at 1,517.8 Deutsche marks, barely

U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 4.6 percent or more during the fourth quarter. Mr. Hayward and others said GDP rose at an annual rate of 4 percent in the third quarter.

The dollar stumbled earlier in the session amid concerns that Congress might not pass Mr. Clinton's proposed \$40 billion loan guarantee package for Mexico.

"The Mexico package is key, and the dollar will ultimately suffer if it doesn't go through or if it has too many conditions attached to it," said Peter Wilson, a bond analyst at Nomura Research Institute in London.

The dollar rebounded after the International Monetary Fund said it had reached a tentative agreement to extend \$7.76 billion in loans to help the Mexican government remedy its financial crisis.

The dollar closed at 1,2760 Swiss francs, off slightly from 1,2773 francs, and at 5,2550 French francs, up from 5,2485. The pound slipped to \$1.5905 from \$1.5915.

The dollar will probably gain if the GDP report shows the

changed from 1,517.6 DM on Wednesday, and at 99.45 yen, off from 99.52 yen.

Many traders said they already expected the Fed to raise interest rates half a percentage point. But they added that a robust GDP report could prompt the Fed to raise rates by still more.

"If the Fed doesn't raise rates by half a percent, the dollar will be in big trouble," said Lawrence Hayward, a currency trader at NationsBank of Texas in Houston. "People expect them to do at least that much."

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The dollar stumbled earlier in the session amid concerns that Congress might not pass Mr. Clinton's proposed \$40 billion loan guarantee package for Mexico.

"The Mexico package is key, and the dollar will ultimately suffer if it doesn't go through or if it has too many conditions attached to it," said Peter Wilson, a bond analyst at Nomura Research Institute in London.

The dollar rebounded after the International Monetary Fund said it had reached a tentative agreement to extend \$7.76 billion in loans to help the Mexican government remedy its financial crisis.

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Hyundai's Plans Expected to Help Ties With Seoul

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — The Hyundai group's move to streamline operations is expected to improve its relations with the Seoul government, which has blocked the conglomerate's fund-raising efforts in recent years, analysts said Thursday.

"The government has long called on local conglomerates to stop excessive expansion and concentrate on core businesses, and Hyundai's plan fits in," said Chang Si Young, a senior researcher at the First Economic Research Institute.

Mr. Chang said he expected the government to remove red tape that had been used to deny Hyundai's access to government loans since Hyundai founder Chung Ju Young unsuccessfully challenged President Kim Young Sam in a 1992 election.

Hyundai said Wednesday it would slash the number of its affiliates to 23 by the end of 1996 from the current 50 to boost its international competitiveness.

"The announcement is seen as another gesture to show how sincerely the group hopes to improve ties with the government," said Kang Dae Hyung, an analyst at Daishin Securities.

Meanwhile, Hyundai said Thursday it had established a technical partnership with California-based Maxtor Corp., which designs data-storage products, to make hard disk drives for export.

Hyundai said its main unit, Hyundai Electronics Industries Co., exchanged a memorandum of understanding with Maxtor on Wednesday to combine Maxtor's technology and Hyundai's manufacturing resources.

Hyundai hopes to begin volume production of Maxtor-designed hard disks this year. Currently, Korea's hard-disk drive production is monopolized by the Samsung group.

Hyundai said it would build a plant in South Korea with an initial investment of \$63 million to manufacture one million units this year. The plant's annual production capacity will be expanded to four million units next year to meet the rapidly growing world market, a Hyundai spokesman said.

(Reuters, AFP)

Kawasaki, LSI Part Ways

Kawasaki Steel Corp. said it had pulled out of a 10-year-old semiconductor venture with U.S.-based LSI Logic Corp.

citing differing long-term goals between the two partners.

Agence France Presse reported from Tokyo.

Under an agreement signed by both companies, Kawasaki will sell its 45 percent stake in Nihon Semiconductor Inc. to California-based LSI for "between 10 billion yen (\$100 million) and 20 billion yen."

Germany Ready to Court Vietnam

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — After lavishing a flurry of political and economic attention on China in 1994, Germany is set to serenade China's traditional Asian rival, Vietnam.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is planning to visit Vietnam this year, hopes financial aid and investments will help ease tensions caused by Germany's long campaign to make Vietnam repatriate 40,000 "guest workers" invited by the former Communist East Germany who refused to leave the country after the two Germanies united in 1990.

In an accord reached Jan. 11, Germany will offer Vietnam 100 million Deutsche marks (\$66 million) in development aid both in 1995 and 1996, and extend export credit guarantees worth another 100 million DM.

German companies, meanwhile, are taking advantage of the political rapprochement in a stampede to enter the booming Vietnamese market and in try to stake industrial claims ahead of their foreign competitors.

They have a lot of catching up to do. "Germany is among the weakest of foreign investors to date," said Oskar Weggel, an analyst at the Institute for Asian Studies in Hamburg. "We can be proud to have passed Luxembourg in the rankings."

While German companies are increasingly interested in Asia in general, analysts say Vietnam offers those that are willing to rough it at the start a unique opportunity to make an entry, in advance of the kind of boom that has already transformed its neighbors. German exports to all of Southeast Asia have shot up more than 50 percent in the last four years.

The biggest foreign investors in Vietnam to date are Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan, followed by France, the Netherlands, Britain, Switzerland and the United States. American companies are

making a big push to open representative offices ahead of an expected normalization of trade relations.

Germany ranks 26th, with a capital investment of \$22.9 million representing just seven projects, according to the latest statistics from the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment in Hanoi.

Vietnamese government and industry welcomes investors from the United

company would invest 250 million DM in Vietnam over the next five years in projects ranging from automobile and commercial assembly to energy distribution equipment, airports and aviation.

• Dresdner Bank AG recently announced the opening of two representative offices. Deutsche Bank AG is already there and is now applying for a branch license.

• Numerous small companies in the German textiles sector, meanwhile, are moving in to take advantage of Vietnam's low wages.

"Vietnam is lower on the development curve in terms of labor costs and other things," said Hung Tran, co-managing director of Deutsche Bank Research. As a market, it is "not yet crowded" and is "poised to take off" as incomes rise, he added.

The minimum wage in Vietnam last year was \$30 a month, according to DB Research, lower than in all other emerging Southeast Asian economies.

Its population of 75 million makes it the 13th most populous nation in the world and the largest in Indochina. Its labor force is young — 39 percent of the population is less than 15 years old — and considered to have a strong Confucian work ethic.

Mr. Weggel, the Hamburg analyst, described Vietnam as a "motballed Porsche."

"Tighten a few screws, remove the dust, and it'll take off," he said.

Dierle Boeche, an Asian affairs expert at the Association of German Chambers of Commerce, agreed. "There's a lot happening in Vietnam," he said, citing demand for German or other foreign expertise in tourism, electricity-generation and distribution, sewage systems, reservoirs, bridge construction, oil and natural gas exploration and telecommunications.

"The chancellor's visit will contribute to the positive image of Germany there and improve the general goodwill," he said.

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States and Europe as a counterweight to economic colonization by neighbors in Asia, and Germany enjoys goodwill born of years of cooperation between Vietnam and East Germany.

"They were proud to be able to study in Dresden," said Mr. Weggel, noting that more than 50,000 Vietnamese speak German. "Some of those people are in important offices today."

German companies are lured by the potential of low-cost manufacturing, a huge demand for infrastructure development and a growing appetite for Western consumer goods such as automobiles.

• Bayerische Motoren Werke AG on Wednesday became the first European automobile manufacturer to open an assembly line in Vietnam. It plans to open dealerships in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City by the end of the year. Company officials said the local car market would boom within the next five years.

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NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

12 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE 52s High Low Lstnd Chg

A

	12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52s	High	Low	Lstnd Chg
181 9% AACN	17	15	12	17	12	12	12	17	12	-1
201 13% ABC Rel	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	12	10	-1
202 12% ACC Co	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	12	10	-1
203 12% ACC T	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	12	10	-1
204 12% ACC T	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	12	10	-1
205 11% ADC T	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	-1
206 11% ADC T	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	-1
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278 11% ADC T	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	-1
279 11% ADC T	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	-1
280 11% ADC T	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	-1
281 11% ADC T	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	13	10	-1

MULTILINGUALISM IN EUROPE

INCREASING INTEGRATION THROUGH LANGUAGE TRAINING

When France recently assumed the presidency of the European Union, it proposed that all EU secondary students be required to learn two European foreign languages.

 A study conducted by the EU's Eurydice program ("Key Data on Education in the European Union," to be published in March) shows that the teaching of foreign languages begins at between the ages of eight and 10 for nearly all European students. In many countries, especially the small northern countries like the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, this is compulsory. At the secondary school level, foreign language training is already general in Europe.

Even Britain and France, notorious for their pride in their native tongues, are making an extra effort. This

year, France will introduce 15 minutes a day of audiovisual foreign language instruction for all seven-year-olds. The British government has a plan to convert 250 secondary schools into language and technology colleges.

Jean-Pierre Van Deth, director of Expolangues, a language school held yearly in Paris, says that while France's proposal that secondary students learn at least two languages provides an admirable goal, it will not be achieved right away for economic reasons.

Since the 1970s, English has been the most popular second language in Europe. "For science and technology," says Mr. Van Deth, "it

is important to use a common language, but now people must go beyond that and learn the native languages of their interlocutors in order to understand them. English is one of those languages that is useful for designating things, like the label on a bottle of wine. Other languages are more expressive — more like tasting the wine. In Europe, we must start tasting other languages. The French must try to learn German and Portuguese, for example, to understand the people who speak the language."

The final frontier
Bernhard Rötters, director of CLIC, a language school in Seville that teaches Spanish to foreign students and English, German and French to local residents, explains the importance of learning foreign languages a bit differently: "It's one of the last adventures available to us," he

says. "It allows a different and better access to a country and its people."

Dirk Van Nieuwenborgh, sales manager for CERAN, a language school with headquarters in Belgium that has franchises all over Europe and will soon have one in the United States, points out that while it may be possible to do business in one language, in order to be integrated socially, other languages are necessary.

Knowledge of a foreign language can also be a financial asset. A businessperson who speaks another language may have that extra edge that gets the contract signed, and a job-seeker with more than one language has an obvious advantage in any company that does business in Europe.

Countries whose inhabitants are known for their linguistic skills can also attract industry more easily. Bernard Zugdanski, general manager

of GMS Textile Manufacturing & Trading Company, a subsidiary of a major Chinese textile group, says his company chose Nivelles, Belgium as the location of its European offices and warehouse primarily for this reason. "We have a multilingual staff," he says. "Everybody here speaks four languages."

Theory vs. practice

The importance of learning foreign languages is obvious — the question of how best to go about it remains. The Eurydice study states: "In general, only half of those who learn a foreign language speak it well enough to hold a conversation," and adds that in the EU, "one-third of young people [15-24] today are incapable of conversing in a foreign language, although 89 percent have been taught at least one."

According to Mr. Van Deth, there is no easy way to learn another language. He points to Luxembourg, where foreign languages are taught beginning at the age of six, as an ideal. "There, the language is not learned in isolation," he says. "It serves as a means of communication for courses in other subjects." He says it is preferable to study a language for half an hour a day rather than three hours once weekly because it keeps the language in mind and makes it easier to think spontaneously.

For those who need to

learn a language very quickly, he recommends an intensive course of at least five to six hours per day in the country of origin, if possible. Most people can conduct basic conversations after two weeks of intensive courses, he says.

Intensive is an understatement for the courses offered at CERAN, where students live and often dream, in the language, spending the entire day with their professors, from 8 A.M. to 10 or 11 P.M., and speaking nothing but the language they are learning. This effective but grueling method is recommended for those who are highly motivated, many of them businesspeople who need to learn a language quickly.

Total immersion

At the Lidén & Denz Center for Russian as a Foreign Language in St. Petersburg, students live with Russian families who speak no foreign languages, giving them no choice but to immerse themselves in the language and culture. "It is probably more important to go to the country of origin to learn Russian than it is with other languages," says Walter Denz, director of the Swiss-owned school, "because the Russian mentality is so different. Also, you can't work in Russia without Russian because the business community doesn't speak English."

Summer school

In France, German and Spanish follow English in popularity. In Ireland, the study of German has increased dramatically, with some 26 percent of young people learning the language.

Heidi Ellison

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WHAT: Heidi Ellison is a freelance writer based in Paris. Terry Swartzberg is a Munich-based business writer. Graham Wade is a freelance journalist and author based in Britain and specializing in education and media.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Maher

SHIFTING RANKINGS

English still tops the charts, but German's on the rise.

 In the 1970s, a language boom began in Europe, and as a result, the younger generation has a much higher language literacy than older people. According to a study conducted by the European Union's Eurydice program, in 1994 only 21 percent of those 55 and older had learned English, while 65 percent of 15-to-24-year-olds had studied it.

English is a good example because it is the most popular foreign language studied in Europe, at both the primary and secondary levels. An amazing 83 percent of secondary school students in the EU were learning English in 1991-92.

The study of other foreign languages has increased along with that of English in the past two decades. French is number two in popularity in every EU country except Denmark and the Netherlands, where German takes that honor, and Britain and Ireland, where French is the foreign language of choice. While French still holds a prominent place in the language pantheon, however, it is losing ground in Spain, where fewer young people are learning it.

German comes in number three in Europe, with most students inhabiting its North European neighbors. In Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy, there was little interest in German as a foreign language at the beginning of the 1990s, but Bernhard Rötters of CLIC, a Seville-based language school, says that German is now competing with French for second place after English among Spanish students at his school.

In France, German and Spanish follow English in popularity. In Ireland, the study of German has increased dramatically, with some 26 percent of young people learning the language.

Frank Giffard, director of the Institut für Fremdsprachen und Auslandskunde bei der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Bavaria, says that while English continues to draw the largest number of students, "we're witnessing a decline in demand for French, and Spanish is gaining in popularity." He says that if only one foreign language is going to be learned, it should be English.

H.E.

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SPORTS

Chargers Face Daunting Task in Stopping 49ers

By Dave Sell
Washington Post Service

MIAMI — The San Francisco 49ers, who know about rain, flooded the National Football League with points this season. If the San Diego Chargers are to pull off the biggest upset in Super Bowl history Sunday night, they will have to find a sandbag or two.

The 49ers' second-year fullback, William Floyd, wondered if even those reinforcements would help the Chargers.

"No one can stop this offense, but I won't say San Diego can't," Floyd said, trying to toe that elusive line between forthright commentary and Super Bowl braggadocio.

"You got an army anywhere near here?" Floyd said, when asked about the way to stop the 49ers. "We're on a roll right now. We feel good about everything on offense. It's not a case of being overconfident. It is a confidence in ourselves to be able to go out and do the job. We've worked so hard for this."

The 49ers do have a multitude of ways to defeat opponents. Unlike the National Football Conference Eastern Division teams that won Super Bowls, the 49ers rely on the pass more than the run. Yet, there is enough balance and potency in the running game to hurt opponents in either fashion.

"This team enjoys run blocking," said tackle Harris Barton. "Most offensive linemen like to run block, but we have our expertise in pass blocking. That's our thing. With Jerry Rice, John Taylor, Ricky Watters, Brent Jones, we know how the football is moved in San Francisco and it's through the air."

The Chargers' strength on defense is stopping the run. They were fifth in the NFL in that department, allowing an average of 87.8 yards per game. They got here by forcing the Pittsburgh Steelers — who had the top-ranked running attack — to shift to passing. The Steelers gained 349 yards that way but lost the American Football Conference championship game.

"That was a great idea to take that away and make them do things they were not comfortable doing," said Jones, the 49ers' tight end, who had 49 receptions in the regular season. "While the Steelers moved the ball, they never really put it in the end zone" after an early touchdown. "That's the key to this whole thing. I think our offense is balanced enough to overcome that."

Actually, the 139 yards rushing the 49ers got in the NFC championship victory over Dallas was not that extraordinary, given what the Cowboys allowed at other points this season.

son. But the 49ers have been able to mix the run and pass better than any other team this season. Of their 18 games, in 10 they ran more than they passed. Yet, in six games, the number of running plays and passing plays were within three of each other.

"One of the more amazing aspects of their success is the rhythm of their offense," said the Chargers' coach, Bobby Ross.

When the 49ers lost, and that was only three times, they turned the ball over. Eleven times in those three games. If the Chargers cause a few early turnovers, this might still be a game after the elaborate first-time show. The Chargers' linebacker, Junior Seau, can cause that sort of havoc, though he will have to do it against an experienced offensive line that is used to complicated schemes.

"They give Junior a lot of opportunities to freelance and you have to account for number 55 no matter where he is," Barton said. "He comes from the secondary, the side and up the middle, so you've got to watch where he's at. When you do that, you can tend to lose focus on the guy you're blocking."

But the Chargers' pass defense was only 22d in the NFL this season. Free safety Stanley Richard is a very good player — and will be a free agent — but cornerbacks Darren Gordon and Dwayne Harper have not been the strength of the defense. The Chargers allowed 228.3 passing yards per game.

"We're playing a team that likes to pass the ball and if we give up that many yards our chances of winning are slim and none," Richard said.

The Chargers' front seven are formidable. Defensive end Leslie O'Neal was second in the AFC with 12½ sacks. But by the time he charges around the end, the 49ers' quarterback, Steve Young, is not likely to have the ball because a key part of the passing attack is the quick throw.

"The quick passing game is 25 percent of their game plan," Richard said. "You concentrate on eliminating the quick pass. Then you concentrate on shutting down the run, that's about 30 to 40 percent of their offense. You have two things to concentrate on that are more than half of their offense."

"Then you have the deep pass, which is about 10 to 15 percent of the offense."

"If you can concentrate on shutting down one thing they do well, take that out of their offense and concentrate on something else, you have a good chance to win the football game."

That's asking for a lot of concentration.

Cup Finalists Hit Slick Spot

The Associated Press

Retaining the Stanley Cup championship, the New York Rangers are finding out, could be tougher than winning it.

"Every goalie has been on his game the first four games and every team has come in pumped up for us," said the defenseman Jay Wells following a 3-2 loss to Pittsburgh on Wednesday night.

The defending National Hockey League champions now have a 1-3 record

NHL HIGHLIGHTS

this short season, and have played all four games at home. They have so far come up short despite outshooting the opposition, 146-115.

"We've had a lot of chances in the last four games, especially when the game is on the line," said their captain, Mark Messier. "We're playing well, we're playing hard, we're just not converting our chances offensively."

It hasn't been any easier for the Vancouver Canucks, the other Stanley Cup finalist last season. They have only a tie to show for their first four games following a 6-2 loss to Toronto on Wednesday night.

Kevin Stevens scored at 4:21 of the final period as the Penguins banded the Rangers their third one-goal defeat and completed their three-game road trip with a third straight victory.

Stevens broke a 2-2 tie when he scored his second goal of the season on a rebound of Ulf Samuelsson's shot.

Ken Wregget outplayed Mike Richter in goal, making 39 saves as the Rangers outshot the Penguins, 41-29.

In Toronto, Mike Gartner's two goals helped the Maple Leafs get their first victory of the season.

They outshot Vancouver, 44-26, with a 15-6 advantage in the third.

"We're not a good team right now, obviously," said Vancouver's captain, Trevor Linden. "We're not doing the little things it takes to win a hockey game."

Sharks 4, Jets 0: Arthur Irbe stopped 28 shots for his fifth NHL shutout and Sergei



Ron Hesman/Reuters

Ken Wregget was a busy man, but outplayed New York's Mike Richter.

They outshot Vancouver, 44-26, with a 15-6 advantage in the third.

"We're not a good team right now, obviously," said Vancouver's captain, Trevor Linden. "We're not doing the little things it takes to win a hockey game."

Sharks 4, Jets 0: Arthur Irbe stopped 28

Makarov got his first two goals this season as San Jose defeated visiting Winnipeg. Irbe kept his shutout with an assist from the replay official. Stephane Quintal slapped a shot from mid-ice between Irbe's legs as the second period ended, but a replay showed the 80-foot shot crossed the goal line as the period's last tenth of a second expired.

SIDELINES

Clinton Urges New Baseball Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton told his special mediator Thursday to try to get major league baseball's owners and players back to the bargaining table, and warned that the government may offer its own proposal if the stalemate isn't soon ended.

"It's time to play ball," Clinton said in a statement issued by the White House.

He said he had asked the special mediator, W.J. Usery, to resume negotiating sessions and "step up the pace and intensity of his mediation efforts." However, Usery does not have the authority to force negotiations on the parties.

Hallberg Leads by Stroke in Manila

MANILA (AP) — Mats Hallberg of Sweden shot 3-under-par 69 Thursday in windy conditions to hold a one-stroke lead after the first round of the PGA European Tour's Johnnie Walker Classic.

Five players card 70 on the 7,016-yard Orchard Golf and Country Club course: Andrew Coltart of Scotland, Joakim Haeggman of Sweden, Paul Eales of England, Marimuthu Ramayah of Malaysia and Silvio Grapasson of Italy.

Nick Price, the world's top-ranked player, was at 71 and Fred Couples, who won last week's Dubai Desert Classic, was three back and tied with defending champion Greg Norman. Seve Ballesteros and Colin Montgomerie opened with 73s and Bernhard Langer shot a 74.

For the Record

Gary Stevens, the third-leading jockey in the United States last year with earnings of more than \$12 million, said he had signed a "lucrative, guaranteed contract" with trainer Steve Linsigwill to ride in Hong Kong for the next 4½ months.

Steve Schott and Ken Hoffmann, two developers, reached an agreement to buy the Oakland Athletics in a deal that would keep the team at the Oakland Coliseum the next 10 years. Details were not released.

Jürgen Klinsmann, Tottenham's German striker who was kicked in the head and knocked unconscious during Wednesday night's match at Aston Villa, may recover in time to play this weekend.

Scottie Pippen, the Chicago Bulls' fiery forward, was suspended one game without pay and fined \$6,000 by the NBA for throwing a chair across the court after being ejected in a loss to San Antonio.

SCOREBOARD

WEEKEND RESULTS

Wednesday 26 (Murdoch 11), Philadelphia 29 (Bartels 12).

Atlanta 28 22 21 23—100. Charlotte 22 22 21 25—14.

Al: Norman 9-17 7-26, Blocker 6-12 21-6; C:

Holz 9-17 7-26, Mourning 13-19 10-13.

Rebounds—Atlanta 63 (Norman 10), Charlotte 40 (Mourning 11). Assists—Atlanta 27

Utah 21, Charlotte 20 (Mourning 11).

Sacramento 19 22 22 25—100. Denver 28 33 35 34—126.

St. Louis 21 22 22 25—100. Simmons 4-11 1-11.

Utah 22 22 22 25—100. Blocker 7-11 22-11 25, St. Louis 7-11 22-11.

Rebounds—Sacramento 5 (Blocker 4); St. Louis 5 (Blocker 4); Denver 5 (Blocker 4).

Al: Malone 12-11 22, Blocker 6-12 16-11.

Rebounds—New Jersey 73 (Colman 11), Los

Angels 70 (Colman 11), Atlanta 65 (Colman 11).

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Al: Malone 12-11 22, Blocker 6-12 16-11.

SPORTS

CANTONA: Soccer 'Stain'

Continued from Page 1
ing, unfortunately because he is a man of great talent.

"Such behavior is not compatible with the example a high-level sportsman like Eric Cantona should set. Eric Cantona has only himself to blame."

FIFA, the international soccer federation, said in a statement: "We deplore such an action, especially considering that FIFA is carrying out a 'fair play' campaign and is trying to get fair play respected on the pitch."

Manchester United officials, while declining comment, said the club's directors would meet to decide whether Cantona should play in the team's FA Cup fourth-round match Saturday against second-division Wrexham.

"We are confident that Manchester United will meet their responsibilities," said the FA's Kelly.

Neither FIFA nor UEFA, the European soccer federation, will penalize Cantona unless sanctions are requested by England, where Cantona's career was resuscitated three years ago. Just last spring, the English were lauding him as the first foreigner to win their player of the year award.

The incident began three minutes into the second half of the match against Crystal Palace, when Cantona kicked out at opposing defender Richard Shaw. That resulted in a red card and ejection for Cantona, his fifth since joining United two seasons ago. Television pictures showed the 6-foot, 162-pound Cantona in his black visiting uniform, walking alongside the grandstand when he turned and lunged back at a ground-level fan who apparently had been shouting abuse at him from the front row of the stands.

Cantona clumsily launched a horizontal, two-footed kick, landing hard on a short fence as the spectator was knocked backward. Cantona, regaining his balance, began throwing punches. A short exchange ensued as officials, players and coaches arrived to pull Cantona away.

The police said two Crystal Palace fans gave statements alleging assault by Cantona and Ince. The FA planned no charges against Ince or other players, Kelly said.

In what has been a scandalous season for English soccer, the FA has responded cautiously to allegations of match-fixing, drug abuse and kick-backs. But Kelly appeared much more firm this time.

"I am left with a very upsetting and disturbing feeling, looking at the pictures in the morning papers, the young children around this incident — young girl and a boy in a Manchester United shirt," Kelly said. "These are terribly graphic pictures of the incident which brings shame on football, no doubt whatsoever."

As players are expected to swallow abuse from the fans who pay their salaries, the severity of Cantona's suspension may depend on the tone of his appeal. The last time he was in such a mess, while playing for the French team Nimes in 1991, he had thrown the ball at the referee, stomped off without the permission of a red card and attacked an opponent in the locker room. When members of that disciplinary committee asked for an explanation, he walked up to each one and called him an "idiot." His suspension was doubled to



Agence France Presse
Eric Cantona, heckled, went into the stands feet first.

two months, and he announced his retirement at 25.

By then he had already played for six French clubs. At Auxerre, his first club, he was fined for punching his team's goalkeeper and was suspended three months for a dangerous tackle. He made two tours there and also at Marseille, where even the latter's volatile owner, Bernard Tapie, couldn't abide the sight of Cantona throwing his jersey at his coach during a charity match. In 1988, Cantona compared the French national team's coach, Henri Michel, to excrement; that resulted in a one-year suspension. In 1989, with Montpellier, after a distressing loss to Lille, he was suspended from two matches for hitting a teammate over the head with his playing shoe.

Cantona's passions and imaginings have long been cheered by his fans and damned by those authorized to tell him what to do. He is a painter, a poet, a motorcyclist philosopher in a French-Kerouac sort of way, but soccer people can only be so understanding. So it was in February 1992, when he joined Leeds, which went on to win its first English title in 18 years; a few months later its manager, Howard Wilkinson, was unloading his Cantona headache to United for a pittance of £1.2 million.

"I was told I was taking a risk, but you gamble on every player," Manchester United's manager, Alex Ferguson, said shortly after taking on Cantona. "You may as well gamble on one who lets people out of their seats."

United, which hadn't won the English championship since 1967, jumped into contention for a third straight Premier League title last Sunday, when the Frenchman scored the game's lone goal to cut Blackburn's lead to just two points.

Ferguson has been able to overlook Cantona's many fines and suspensions over the last two years — for spitting, for bookings, for accusing the referee of taking bribes — but he may not be allowed to exercise such understanding again.

Matthäus Ruptures His Achilles' Tendon

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT — Lothar Matthäus, the veteran captain of the German national team, has ruptured his left Achilles' tendon and faces a possible end to his illustrious career. "It's shattering, but I am not giving up," the 33-year-old Matthäus, said after undergoing surgery Thursday in Munich.

He was injured in a practice match Wednesday evening with his club Bayern Munich.

"It's a hard blow for the German national team," said its coach, Bernd Vogts. "I talked to him on the telephone, he was on the way to surgery and he was naturally feeling down. It's a rupture."

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OBSERVER

Charles With a C?

By Russell Baker
NEW YORK — Reading too much Dickens lately. Which reminds me of a Greenwich Village bookshop clerk. A young man. College age. I asked for a copy of "David Copperfield."

"Who's the author?" he asked. "Dickens," I said. "What's his first name?" he asked. Recalling that exchange, I'll start over:

Reading too much CHARLES Dickens lately. First though, the dumb book clerk story reminds me of a walter story. It really happened during a lunch in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Four of us were lunching in Martinsburg, and I was playing the old crock. Saying something like, "It's amazing how little America's young crooks know of our ancient world. Take our waiter —"

He was an alert young crook. College age. "I'll bet he doesn't even know who Joe DiMaggio is." All three scoffed and scoffed. "Not know who Joe DiMaggio is? Don't be silly."

When the waiter, alert and college age, came back to the table a scoffer asked if he knew who Joe DiMaggio was. His uneasy look said, "These old crooks are putting me on," but out loud he said, "Well, I think I've heard of him somewhere."

"Know who he is?"

The waiter took his time, searched the memory file in the back of his skull, then said, "An actor or something, isn't he?"

What can we take for granted anymore? You're going to say Newt Gingrich, everybody knows who he is. That's what you think.

Face the facts of modernity: College-age people never heard of Joe DiMaggio, never heard of Charles Dickens, are already forgetting they ever heard of Newt Gingrich, those who did.

See why I say, "Reading TOO much CHARLES Dickens lately?" It's a confession to a terminal social condition: headed down the tubes.

You know — those few of you who don't fear the tubes as much as the alternative and so are still with me — you know how Dickens had this ability to put the exactly right name on his fictional characters.

There are Hancock and Flobby, the dry-goods people; Uriah Heep, the pious hypocrite; Sir Mulberry Hawk, the seducer of innocent girls; Ebenezer Scrooge, the soul of greed; Master Murdstone, the brutal stepfather; Mister Micawber, the eternal debtor and on and on.

Because of reading too much Dickens lately, I am amazed at how many real people are going around in Dickensian names. What's worse, I waste hours puzzling over what kinds of characters Dickens would have built for these names.

So I challenge all who hunger for literary fame to test their Dickens potential thusly:

Compose a list of 10 well-known living people whose names would have caught Dickens's eye. Describe the character Dickens would have created for each name. If you feel cocky, fit all 10 into a single plot Dickens might have written, and send to me.

This column will publish the winner's very own name! Maybe part of his entry if it shows real Dickens know-how.

Need some Dickens-type names to get the feel of things?

Here are a few to give you the idea: Ira Magaziner, Danielle Steele, Leon Panetta, Ollie North, George Pataki, Newt Gingrich, Si Newhouse, Mandy Patinkin, Bob Dole, Twyla Tharp, Arianna Huffington, Dan Quayle, Lance Ito —

Better to pick your own. The world's full of them.

New York Times Service

Tàpies: In Life and Art, Fleeing the World

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

BARCELONA — The shuttered exterior of Antoni Tàpies's home in Barcelona says a lot about the 71-year-old Catalan painter.

"I live an isolated life," he said in the quiet of his sitting room, surrounded by Asian and African art and works by Picasso, Miró and Klee. "I like to stay home. Perhaps I spend more time than others painting."

Indeed, most mornings he can be found working in his studio, a glass-roofed room lined with large canvases, many exhibiting familiar black crosses and powdered marble surfaces.

Then, during three months each summer, he retreats still further to a country home. "That's when I do the most work," he said. "I do nothing except meditate and paint, meditate and paint."

This single-mindedness certainly accounts for his huge body of work: 7,000 paintings and sculptures as well as thousands more drawings and engravings. Even now, he said, he usually completes a large painting — some are 19 feet by 10 feet (5.5 by 3 meters) — in a day, and at most in three days.

But the obsessiveness approach of this soft-spoken man with a mane of hair also helps to explain the introspective and intuitive nature of his abstract paintings and collages. In his work as in his life, it seems, Spain's best-known living artist likes to flee the world.

Through April 23, the Guggenheim Museum SoHo in New York City will show 56 of his paintings, dating from 1946 through 1991, in what is described as the first large-scale exhibition of his works in the United States since 1977. A dozen more of his recent paintings are on display at PaceWildenstein's gallery in New York through March 4.

How can just 56 paintings represent such a prolific lifetime's work, he was asked. He laughed.

"You could pick 56 others and make a very different show, but you have to have confidence in the curator," he said. "Some more literary, Surrealist and political works have been eliminated, but the selection is good."

The Guggenheim's exhibition has been organized by Carmen Giménez, the museum's curator of 20th-century



The New York Times

Antoni Tàpies is revered as a national monument in Spain.

art. She has included 42 of the 69 works that formed part of a Tàpies retrospective at the Jeu de Paume gallery in Paris, which drew 70,000 visitors during two months last year.

The Paris show was generally well received, but, for some French critics, Tàpies seemed to be more daring and innovative 30 years ago than today.

"People are always trying to classify us so we pose less of a danger," he responded with no apparent venom. "I have always worked with the same spirit of experimentation and adventure as when I was 20 years old."

Yet over the decades his painting has changed, if only because Spain has changed, from a nation that was tearing itself apart in a civil war when Tàpies was a teenager to one that finally broke free from dictatorship when he was in his 50s. His art was never overly political, but until 1975 he worked in a Spain trapped in the past.

His early years were difficult. He felt pulled in different directions by his mother's devout Roman Catholicism and his father's atheism. He was not a healthy youth, immobilized for more than a year by tuberculosis when

Abstract Expressionism. And in Paris, he said, he came into contact with what was known as Lyrical Abstraction or Informalism.

By 1962, when he held his first one-man show at the Guggenheim, Tàpies had already gained recognition. In the years that followed, the Maribeth Jackson Gallery frequently exhibited his paintings, while he gained a loyal following in Germany and Switzerland. But it was not until after democracy returned to Spain that museums there organized shows of his works.

As a Catalan, though, it was no less important to him that democracy also restored Catalonia's right to its own language, and to this day Tàpies supports the region's continuing fight for greater autonomy.

"We run the risk of being absorbed by Spain," he said. "Catalonia is important for what it represents historically. It has been a model of a democratic and liberal nation."

In 1984, as his contribution to Barcelona's cultural renaissance, he created the Antoni Tàpies Foundation and established a museum in a century-old building designed by the Modernista architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner. He donated 300 paintings to its permanent collection, but it also frequently exhibits works by other modern artists.

Today, Tàpies is revered as a national monument in Spain, even though his horizons still stretch little beyond Catalonia. Indeed, until 1992 when a show of his work was put on in Seville, he had never visited Andalucía, a region central to Spain's identity.

Rather, it could be said he is more interested in traveling in his mind. He explained that he has long been drawn by science, by physics, biology and cosmology and, specifically, by the idea that the earth is a totally living organism. "It makes one change the way one looks at religious and mystical phenomena," he said.

This did not lead him back to Christianity. Instead, he found a spiritual home in Zen Buddhism, through which, he said, "without the need for the supernatural, man can reach ultimate reality through introspection." And now, through his paintings, he struggles to achieve "the ultimate mysterious unity" that links the entire universe.

PEOPLE

Onassis' Apartment Sold for \$9.5 Million

The New York apartment of the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis has been sold to the billionaire David Koch for \$9.5 million. Women's Wear Daily reported that Koch paid \$500,000 extra for the 14-room Fifth Avenue apartment to preempt competitors. Onassis, who died in May, bought the apartment in 1964 for \$200,000.

Ernest Hemingway's three sons have won the right to approve and benefit from future sale of work that was impounded when his fourth wife died in 1986. The writings were left to the Hemingway Foundation by Mary Hemingway. The sons, John, Patrick and Gregory, by Hemingway's previous wives, sued the foundation when it claimed that it owned some of the overseas rights. The material includes excised chapters from "A Farewell to Arms" and a chronicle titled "The African Journal."

The author Tadine Nasrin was awarded a \$4,000 prize in Sweden on Thursday for her literary work. She received the 1995 Monismani prize for her "invaluable contribution" to acknowledging the plight of repressed people, particularly women. Nasrin, who has taken refuge in Sweden, fled her native Bangladesh in August because her life was threatened by Muslim fundamentalists.

The Dutch royals have won their latest battle to keep the tabloid press out of their private lives. In an out-of-court settlement, Story magazine has agreed to pay Prince Claus, the husband of Queen Beatrix, 25,000 guilders (\$14,700) in damages for an article that implied mental instability ran in his family. The prince consort said he would give the money to charity.

WEATHER

Europe

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by Accu-Weather.



North America

Dry weather will continue from New England to the northern Plains and in the Southwest. Rain and thunderstorms will continue in the central Plains and into the Ohio Valley and across the Southwest. There will be snow and ice from the Great Lakes to southern Norway and Sweden and eastern Russia. There will be showers in the northern Japan snow belts. Hong Kong will be seasonable and generally dry.

Asia

Very cold air will spill southward through eastern China, reaching Fuzhou and Changsha by Monday. The cold air will move into Japan, as well. Heavy snow will fall in the northern Japan snow belts. Hong Kong will be seasonable and generally dry.

Middle East

Dry weather will continue from the Great Lakes to southern Norway and Sweden and eastern Russia. There will be showers in the northern Japan snow belts. Hong Kong will be seasonable and generally dry.

Africa

Dry weather will continue from the Great Lakes to southern Norway and Sweden and eastern Russia. There will be showers in the northern Japan snow belts. Hong Kong will be seasonable and generally dry.

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

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Austria Ischgl 110 240 Good Open Pkd. 2/21 41-47 hrs. open, good skiing

Kitzbühel 65 100 Good Open Pkd. 2/21 45 hrs. open, upper runs

Obergurgl 65 131 Good Open Pkd. 2/21 21-27 hrs. open, excellent skiing

Saalbach 52 151 Good Open Pkd. 2/21 10 hrs. open, good base

Sankt Anton 50 100 Good Open Pkd. 2/21 14-16 hrs. open, good slopes

Spain Baqueira Beret 75 80 Good Open Var. 2/21 18 hrs. open, good skiing

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